



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

December 2012

The ABCs

This month's early literacy skill is "letter knowledge," which is knowing the names and shapes of letters. Children who go to kindergarten already knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read.

Here are some ways to help your young child learn about letters:

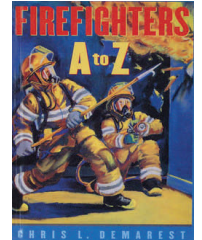
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Read alphabet books together.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels.
- Write words that interest your child (like dinosaur, truck, or mom) using crayons or magnetic letters.

By the time your child is five, he or she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in his or her name.

A B C D E

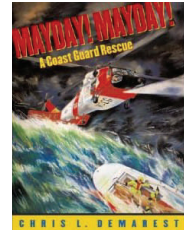
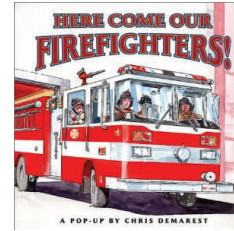
Book of the Month

Firefighters A to Z, by Chris L. Demarest



This rhyming alphabet book is packed full of information about the day in the life of a firefighter. The Author's Note in the back of the book is helpful for grown-ups, and the colorful illustrations are sure to spark your child's curiosity.

Some other books by the author:



More ABC Books

- ABC Kids*, by Simon Basher
- Alphabet Rescue*, by Audrey Wood
- Alphabet Under Construction*, by Denise Fleming
- An Annoying ABC*, by Barbara Bottner
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin, Jr., and John Archambault
- Eating the Alphabet*, by Lois Ehlert
- I Spy Letters*, by Jean Marzollo
- The Icky Bug Alphabet Book*, by Jerry Palotta
- LMNO Peas*, by Keith Baker
- Shout! Shout it Out!* by Denise Fleming
- Superhero ABC*, by Bob McLeod

More fun with *Firefighters A-Z*

Talk about it... There are a lot of words in this book that your child may not know. The Author's Note in the back of the book explains some of the firefighting words, but there are several others you can talk about with your child, such as "ventilate," or "lurch." Stop on pages with unfamiliar words and ask your child to use clues in the pictures to guess what the word might mean. Add details to her descriptions.

This is also a good time to talk about how to call **9-1-1** if there is a fire.

Out and about... Play "I Spy" with the first letter of your child's name. "I spy with my little eye a "B" on that sign!" "Can you spy other letter Bs?" You can also play the game with letter sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that begins with a 'buh' sound, just like your name."

Community connections... Find the fire station closest to your home and point it out to your child. Many stations welcome visits, but it is a good idea to call first.

A word about the ABC song...

ABCDEF G, HIJK ElemenPea
QRS, TUV, W, X, Y and Z

Parents often think their child "knows" the alphabet because they can sing the ABC song and/or recite the alphabet, or because the child can point to the letters in order while singing or saying the alphabet.

Being able to do those things can show that a child has some knowledge about the alphabet, but children with good letter knowledge can identify letters in any order. Try some of these activities with your child, and help her slow down while singing the ABC song.

Rhymes and Songs

Smoke Detector Rhyme

I am a smoke detector beep, beep, beep.
(Squat down and point to self)
I will sniff for smoke while you are asleep.
(Wrinkle nose and sniff)
Push my little button and then you will hear
(Touch nose with finger)
A sound that says I'm working through the year!
(Jump up)

Safety tip: Be sure to change the batteries on your smoke detectors every six months.

Wheels on the Fire Truck

Sung to: "Wheels on the Bus"

The wheels on the fire truck go round and round,
Round and round, round and round.
The wheels on the fire truck go round and round,
All the way to town.

Additional verses:

The ladder on the fire truck goes up and down...
The seat belts on the truck go click, click, click...
The siren on the truck goes woo-oo-oo...
The Chief on the truck says, "Stop, drop, roll!"

What your library can do for you...

Your library has lots of books, DVDs, and music CDs to help celebrate the holidays!

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