



Age Group
Kinders

The Bookworm



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

December 2012

The ABCs

Children who know the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet and how to write them have a much easier time learning to read. This early literacy skill is called "letter knowledge." Once children can name the upper and lowercase letters, they begin learning the sounds that go with them. At this age they also begin learning how to write the letters.

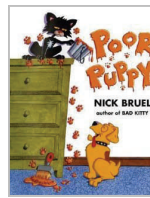
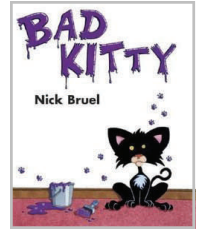
Here are some ways you can support your kindergartener at home:

- Point out letters and have your child name them.
- Make an alphabet book with your child using pictures from old magazines.
- Point out letters and sounds on labels, boxes, newspapers, and signs.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Encourage your child to make letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles, yarn, or form the shapes with their bodies or fingers. Trace letters in salt, sugar, sand, shaving cream, or on a steamy mirror (see page 2 for a play dough recipe).
- When your child is writing, encourage her to spell words by using what she knows about sounds and letters.
- Encourage your child to write emails, notes, letters, lists, greeting cards, etc.
- Read alphabet books with your child.

Book of the Month

***Bad Kitty*, by Nick Bruel**

When Bad Kitty's owners run out of kitty food and only have 26 kinds of vegetables to eat, she tears around the house misbehaving from A to Z. Bad Kitty has become a favorite pet in households across the country.



If your child likes *Bad Kitty*, be sure to look for *Poor Puppy* at your local library!

Visit author Nick Bruel's Bad Kitty website for games, activities, videos, and more.

www.badkittybooks.com

More ABC books

ABC Kids, by Simon Basher

ABeCedarios: Mexican Folk Art ABCs in English and Spanish, by Cynthia Weill

Alphabet Rescue, by Audrey Wood

An Annoying ABC, by Barbara Bottner

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by Bill Martin, Jr., and John Archambault

E-mergency! by Tom Lichtenfeld

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

Superhero ABC, by Bob McLeod

More fun with *Bad Kitty*

Talk about it... There are many wonderful describing words in *Bad Kitty*, such as "loiter" or "yowled." Many of these words may be new to your child. 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.

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 B's?" 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."

In the kitchen... Easy play dough recipe:
Mix: 2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1½ teaspoons cream of tartar, and 1½ teaspoons vegetable oil.

Slowly stir in 2 cups of colored water (use food coloring to color). Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until it turns into dough. Form it into a ball and store it in a covered container.

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

A word about the ABC song...

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.

Did you know...?

Idaho public school children in kindergarten through grade three are given a short reading assessment each year in the fall and spring. This assessment is called the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), and it allows teachers and parents to monitor and provide support to young children as they learn to read.

By March/April, kindergarten children are expected to name most capital and lowercase letters and know the sounds of several consonants and vowels.

Your child's teacher can tell you more about end-of-year reading expectations and how to support your child at home.

Reading alphabet books with your child is a great way to practice naming letters and letter sounds!

What your library can do for you...

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

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2012

