

Did you know...



Children who go to kindergarten knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet have a much easier time learning to read.

By the time your child begins kindergarten he or she should know most of the letters of the alphabet, especially those in his or her name. Your child should be able to identify letters in *any* order, not just in order from A, B, C, D, E...

There are many ways to learn and practice letter recognition, and they should be more play-based than drills. When children can make a connection with the letter because of what it represents, they are able to keep and use that information in a meaningful way.

Here's how...

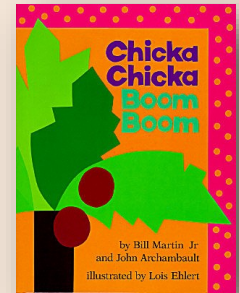


- ✦ Learning shapes is one of the basic skills children need to know before they learn letters of the alphabet. Point out shapes in books and as you're out and about.
- ✦ Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- ✦ Point out and name letters when reading books, signs, or labels. There are many signs out in the community which have letters that children recognize and relate to.
- ✦ Read alphabet and shape books with your child.

Read

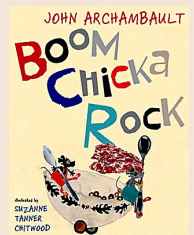
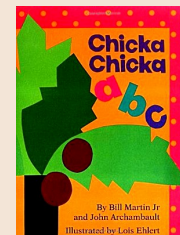
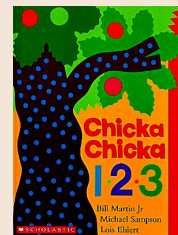


Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, by **Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault**



Children will have great fun reading about what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree. Both lower case and capital letters are shown, which will help your child get familiar with all the letters. The rhythm and rhyme of this classic book will have your child asking you to read it over and over again!

Other books in this series:



Look for other books by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault at your local library!

Did you know...?



All Idaho children are given a short test called the Individual Reading Indicator when they start kindergarten. Your child should be able to point out letters in the alphabet when they hear them said aloud and also know some sounds letters make. Begin working on these things now while your child is in preschool.

Talk



Chicka Chicka Boom Boom is about a coconut tree. Many children have never seen a real coconut. Next time you go to the grocery store show your child a coconut (or any other kind of unfamiliar fruit or vegetable.) Help them find words to describe the color and how the coconut feels, sounds, and smells.

Optional: Take a coconut home and crack it open so your child can taste the coconut juice and meat. For an easy way to open a coconut see

<https://youtu.be/eH9gqtZc35I>.

Write



Staple blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Write or help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Let your child cut or tear out pictures from magazines or catalogs of things that begin with that letter. Glue into the book. Invite your child to “read” the book when it is finished!

Sing

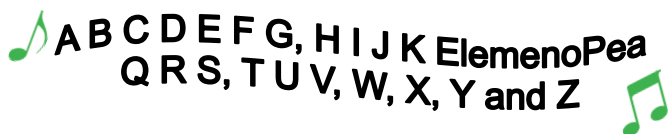


A word about the ABC song...

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.

Instead of singing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” try singing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” or another simple tune.



Play



Echo Song: Boom Chicka Boom

Have child repeat each verse after you and add any swaying, clapping, or other fun motions.

I said a-boom-chicka-boom,
I said a-boom-chicka-boom,
I said a-boom-chicka-rocka-
chicka-rocka-chicka-boom!

Oh yeah?

Uh huh!

Next time -

A little louder!

Repeat with new last line each time - a little softer, a little slower, a little faster and then finish with “the end.”

From the King County Library System

See a video at

<https://kcls.org/content/boom-chicka-boom/>



At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!