

FAMILY LITERACY GUIDE

CHICKA CHICKA ABC

ABOUT THE BOOK

Chicka Chicka ABC

By Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault and Illustrator Lois Ehlert

This bright and colorful book is a delight to read as Bill Martin and John Archambault tell a playful story about the alphabet. One by one the letters of the alphabet go up the coconut tree until...oh no... Chicka Chicka BOOM BOOM! An

abbreviated version of the original *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* book, *Chicka Chicka ABC* is a sturdy book well-suited for young children as well as older children. It is a great tool to teach and review the letters of the alphabet.

ABCs – BACK TO THE BASICS

Distinguishing between letters, naming them, and understanding that letters and sounds are systematically linked are important parts of early literacy knowledge and good predictors of beginning reading achievement. Kindergarten entrance screenings frequently include an assessment of children's knowledge of both upper and lower case letters and of basic words. In a literate society like ours, children are exposed to the letters of the alphabet at a very early age. Through numerous planned and incidental activities, parents and educators make those exposures effective and meaningful. Singing songs that include letter names such as *The*

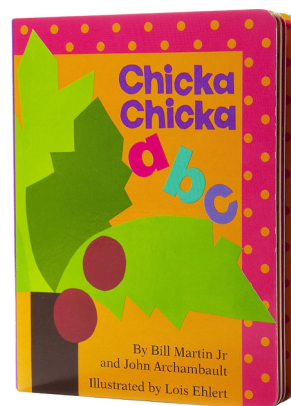
ABC song and *BINGO*, magnet letters for play, foods with ABC shapes, alphabet books, and authentic writing experiences are examples of planned alphabet activities. Incidental alphabet experiences include things like pointing out letters in the environment such as, "Look, that's the letter A on the soup can, Alison. Remember that your name starts with the letter A." You can also spell out familiar words such as, "It's time for B-E-D."



Chicka Chicka ABC

Learning Objectives

1. Students will listen, speak, read, and write the information and understand.
2. Students will discover relationships and concepts.
3. Students will use oral and written language that follows the accepted conventions of the English language to acquire, interpret, apply, and transmit information.



These guides are adapted from a copyrighted production of:
Geneseo Migrant Center
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Leicester, NY 14481

Early Childhood Education – Infant/Toddler Level

Auditory Comprehension & Expressive Communication

1. Produces a variety of consonant sounds.
2. Babbles short syllable strings with inflection similar to adult speech.



DURING YOUR VISIT:

With the parent holding the infant or toddler, read *Chicka Chicka ABC*. Read the text in a musical, sing-songy chant varying the volume of your voice - loud for “BOOM BOOM” and soft at other points. Voice variations often capture and keep a child’s attention. If the parent is a reader, ask him/her to re-read the book using voice inflections. » Say to the parent, “Knowing letter names and sounds is an important building block for reading. Although it may be several years before [child’s name] reads in a conventional way, now is a good time to introduce letters in a playful manner. *Chicka Chicka ABC* is one playful way to introduce the letters of the alphabet. Magnet letters, games, songs, blocks with letters – these are all good tools to use to help [child’s name] learn letter names. You can also point out letters in your home and neighborhood and spell words out loud. For instance, ‘That sign says stop. S-T-O-P. Stop.’ » Even very young children will learn a few letters and will begin to recognize that letters put together mean something. They may recognize the letter ‘A’ because it is the first letter of the alphabet, another since it is the first letter of a place they visit frequently, and another because it is the first letter of their name. » Today we’ll make ABC magnets for your refrigerator to give [child’s name] opportunities to see and touch letters. It is a good idea to start with letters that have a special meaning to [child’s name] as mentioned above.”

ACTIVITY: Sing *BINGO* substituting words and letters that are meaningful to the child:

*The Martin family has a girl and Bella is her name-o
B-E-L-L-A, B-E-L-L-A, B-E-L-L-A, And Bella is her name-o.*

Before the Visit

1. Gather needed materials:
 - Lightweight craft foam
 - 3-inch alphabet stencils
 - self-adhesive magnet strips
 - scissors
2. Prepare lesson props:
 - following the directions to the right, make a model set of ABC magnet letters.

Directions for ABC Magnets

1. Place letter stencils on craft foam sheets and trace.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Cut pieces of magnet strip and adhere to the back of the letters.
4. Put the letters on the refrigerator.

Early Childhood Education – Preschool/School Age Levels

Coconut Tree Letter Game

DURING YOUR VISIT:

With the parent and child sitting together, read *Chicka Chicka ABC*. If the parent is a reader, ask him/her to read the book to the child. While reading the book, encourage the child to name the letters that he/she knows. Ask leading questions such as, “Can you point to the letter ‘P’? What letter does your name start with? What is the first (last) letter of the alphabet?” » Say, “Today we are going to make a coconut tree letter game.” Place your model and the materials on the workspace. If the parent and child are readers, ask them to read the directions for making the game board.

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out a tree trunk from the brown construction paper and glue onto the poster board.
2. With fingers spread wide, trace hands on green construction paper and cut out. Glue to the top of the trunk as tree’s leaves.
3. Use alphabet stickers on or around the tree trunk in random order.

GAME RULES

(Remind parents they may create their own letter and word games and change the rules to fit the literacy levels of the players.)

LETTER MATCH

1. Stick a second set of letter stickers on pennies and place pennies in a small plastic container.
2. Taking turns, select a penny and place it on the matching letter on the game board.

PENNY PITCH

1. Each player takes turns pitching pennies onto the game board.
2. Name the letter nearest to the penny.

COCONUT SCRABBLE

1. Cover the consonants with pennies and the vowels with nickels.
2. Decide how many letters each player may select.
3. Take turns uncovering the agreed upon number of letters.
4. Create different words and give one (1) point for each letter used.
5. Play with partners when players of different literacy levels are involved in the game.

Auditory

Comprehension

1. Looks at objects or people to whom the adult calls attention.
2. Understands a specific word or phrase (other than no) for family members, pets, objects, or social routines.

Expressive

Communication

1. Produces a variety of consonant sounds.
2. Babbles short syllable strings with inflection similar to adult speech.

Before the Visit

1. Gather needed materials:

- 1 sheet poster board
- brown and green construction paper
- scissors
- alphabet stickers or cut out letters (about size of a penny)
- glue
- 26 pennies and 5 nickels

2. Prepare lesson props:

- follow directions on the left and make a model of a coconut tree

Parenting Education Activity

TEACHING THE ALPHABET

Learning letter names and letter sounds is the beginning step in learning to read and write. Helping children focus on letters is one way that parents can help assist their children with this important basic literacy skill. Begin with highlighting, in familiar activities, consonants such as the first letter of the child's name. For example, if the child's name is Bella, you can bounce a ball, build with blocks, blow bbubbles, etc. School age children may be ready to tackle beginning digraphs such as sh, ch, and th. For the digraph sh, look for shadows, shade your eyes, put your finger to your lips and say shhh, and make a shaker. Children need lots of practice to learn letter names and letter sounds, so think of little ways to reinforce this skill each day.

Teaching children to dress and feed themselves and behave in proper ways are all part of our responsibilities as parents. Helping children learn the basics of reading and writing is an equally important responsibility for families who live in a literate society. It needs to be worked on daily. This doesn't mean setting up a school in our homes, but rather thinking of playful ways to focus children's attention on letters and words. The activities below are fun ways to focus on letters.

MAGIC LETTER WANDS

Magic Letter Wands help preschool and kindergarten students focus on specific letter sounds. To begin, think of a letter that the child hears often, such as the first letter of his/her name. Then follow the directions below to make a Magic Letter Wand:

- Cut out a magazine picture of something that begins with the letter you choose (ex. ball for the letter 'B').
- Glue the picture to lightweight cardboard to give it stability and then tape it to the top of a tongue depressor/popsicle stick.
- Print the letter (ex. 'B') on the stick just below the picture.
- Give the wand a little "magic" by adding ribbons or glitter.
- Touch the Magic Letter Wand to things in the home that begin with the letter and say the name of each object as it is touched.

Before playing, create a list of objects with names that begin with the selected letter. Use the list as a guide when you help your child look for things to touch. For example, 'B' objects found in many homes include: bottle, bracelet, bed, book, backpack, bag, bandage, boat, bathrobe, belt, bib, bike, blanket, boot, bowl, box, buckle, brush, button.

LETTER LISTS

Letter Lists are playful ways to help school age children focus on letters and words. Just as you selected a letter for the Magic Letter Wand, begin by choosing a letter for the Letter List. School age children can help with the selection.

- Tape a large piece of paper to the refrigerator.
- Print the selected letter at the top of the paper. Make it big.
- Throughout the day or week, challenge children to write words that begin with the selected letter.
- Suggest places to find words – books, magazines, flyers, food and product labels, in dictionaries.
- Have each child use a different color pencil to write his/her words on the list and give rewards such as stickers or treats.



Interactive Literacy Between Parents and their Children

Alphabet Themes

INCLUDE EXPERIENCES WITH LETTERS AND WORDS THROUGHOUT YOUR WEEK AND IN DIFFERENT WAYS. HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

Star Your Child in an Alphabet Book

1. Punch holes along the left side of 14 sheets of paper and fasten together to make a book.
2. Write a title on the front page. Print the letter 'A' at the top of the backside of the first page. Following the alphabet, print the letter at the top of each remaining page.
3. From photographs of family and friends, select a picture to represent each letter. You can be creative! A photo of your child eating an apple might represent the letter 'A'. Blowing out birthday cake candles could stand for both the letter 'B' and the letter 'C'.
4. Glue the photos under the letters they represent. Then write a sentence that explains the photograph. For example, "This is [child's name] with his/her dog." for the letter 'D'. Underline the letter 'd' in 'dog' to make it stand out.

Eat Your Way Through Letters

Continue the theme of learning about letters at mealtime. Many companies feature ABCs in their food products and you can make letters as you cook other foods.

1. Serve alphabet soup and name the letters as you eat them.
2. Eat alphabet cereal for breakfast.
3. Serve a snack of puffs or pretzels made in alphabet shapes.
4. Pour pancake batter into the shape of a letter.
5. Use alphabet cookie cutters to cut sandwiches into the shapes of letters.
6. With colored frosting, print letters on top of cupcakes.
7. Make crispy rice bars into letter shapes:

Melt ¼ pound butter and 1 bag marshmallows in a saucepan.

When melted together, stir in six (6) cups of crispy rice cereal.

When mixture is cool to touch, mold into letter shapes.

Host a Letter Party

For no special reason, host a letter party. Invite just your family or a few friends to join. Choose a letter for the party and plan activities around the letter. For a letter 'M' party, for example, you could:

- » Wear something that begins with the letter 'M' – mittens, a maroon shirt.
- » Serve snacks that begin with 'M' – milkshakes, molasses cookies, mousse, macaroni, muffins.
- » Tape words beginning with 'M' on guests' backs and have them guess the words.
- » Play a game that begins with 'M' like musical chairs.
- » Read stories that use the letter 'M' prominently in the title like Mama Mama, Is Your Mama a Llama? and Mike Milligan's Steam Shovel.
- » Place items that begin with the letter 'M' in a box and ask guests to guess their identity – magnifying glass, mirror, magnet, marble, marker, mug, measuring tape, etc.
- » Sing *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* and *Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*.
- » Make a collage from items that begin with the letter 'M' – macaroni, map, maple leaf, math symbols, 'm' words written out, pictures of 'm' words, etc.
- » Move in ways that begin with 'M' – march, meander, melt, etc.
- » Have a marvelous time mapping out party plans for another letter!