

# Now I Know My ABCs

## Tips, Songs, and Rhymes for Parents and Caregivers

Here are ideas and activities to try this week with your child. Each activity is based on one of the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles of early literacy development and is designed to engage your child, stimulate his or her literacy skills, and enhance the bonds between you.

- **SHARE BOOKS** Share simple alphabet books with your preschooler. (There are many more complex alphabet books in the library that discuss letter sounds or concepts, but these are more appropriate for older primary students.)
- **SHARE WORDS** Introduce your child to challenging words that begin with a specific alphabet letter. For example, for the letter M, you might have “majestic,” “magnificent,” and “magical.” Pick one letter and introduce three words. You may even want to keep a journal of your words. Stay away from vowels where the beginning sound may vary between long and short vowels, such as “into” and “ice.”
- **SHARE RHYMES** The book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* has a great rhyming text. After reading the story, go back and read it again with a “rap” beat.
- **SHARE SONGS** Sing songs that have letters in the lyrics, like “Bingo.” These are great picks for preschoolers. For fun, sing pop songs like “YMCA” by the Village People or “Respect” by Aretha Franklin.
- **SHARE STORIES** Make up stories about a letter family, such as the “S” family. Talk about things the “S” family would like: spaghetti, skates, singing, etc. Or make up a story about your child, using as many words as possible that start with the first letter of your child’s name.
- **SHARE PLAYTIME** Help your child form letters out of play dough, fingerpaint letters with shaving cream, or write letters on the sidewalk with chalk.
- **SHARE WRITING** Write an “Alphabet Friends” book with your child. Each time your child makes a new friend, add her to the book. Write her name, add a couple of sentences about her, and, if possible, include a photo. Have your child draw a picture of an activity they enjoyed together. Over time, see if you can fill the book with children for every letter of the alphabet.

Here are the words to the songs and rhymes that you and your child enjoyed today. By continuing to sing, chant, and play with your child throughout the week, you will help him or her make sense of the new information and concepts introduced at storytime.

### Songs

#### Moving Hands

(sung to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Put your hands on your head, (*Suit actions to words*)  
Put your hands on your knees,  
Put your hands behind you now,  
If you please.

Put your hands on your tummy,  
Put your hands on your toes,  
Put your hands upon your cheeks,  
Put them on your nose.

Put your hands in the air,  
Put your hands on your hair,  
Clap your hands, one, two, three,  
Then fold them on your knees.

#### Bingo

There was a farmer had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-o.  
B-I-N-G-O  
B-I-N-G-O  
B-I-N-G-O  
And Bingo was his name-o.

There was a farmer had a dog,  
And Bingo was his name-o.  
(clap)-I-N-G-O  
(clap)-I-N-G-O  
(clap)-I-N-G-O  
And Bingo was his name-o.

#### Additional Verses

(With each verse, clap for another letter in “Bingo” and sing until you are clapping for all five letters)

#### Reader Wiggle

(sung to the tune of “Hokey Pokey”)

When I read a book,  
(*Hold hands out, palms up*)  
I start from left to right,  
(*Shake left hand, then right*)  
And I do the very same thing,  
(*Shake one finger at a friend*)

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When I want to write.  
(Shake left hand, then right)  
I do the Reader Wiggle,  
(Shake hands over head, wiggle hips)  
And I turn myself about. (Turn around)  
That's how I read and write!  
(Shake one finger at a friend)

I do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle,  
(Hold hands overhead, wiggle fingers, and turn around)  
Do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle,  
Do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle.  
That's how I read and write!  
(Shake one finger at a friend)

When I read *The Three Bears*,  
(Hold hands as if reading)  
I move from left to right.  
(Shake left hand, then right)  
I go from word to word,  
(Point finger as if moving word to word)  
And I know I've got it right.  
(Point to self, and nod your head "yes")  
I do the Reader Wiggle,  
(Shake hands over head, and wiggle hips)  
And I turn myself about. (Turn around)  
That's how I read and write!  
(Shake one finger at a friend)

I do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle,  
(Hold hands overhead, wiggle fingers, and turn around)  
Do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle,  
Do the R-e-a-d-e-r Wiggle.  
That's how I read and write!  
(Shake one finger at a friend)

## Alphabet Song

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,  
(Point to letters, one at a time, on a flannel board or magnetic board)  
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,  
Q, R, S, T, U, V,  
W, X, Y and Z,  
Now I know my ABCs, (Point to yourself)  
Next time won't you sing with me? (Point at others)  
(Repeat)

## Rhymes

### Boom Chicka Boom (echo rhyme)

(Child repeats each line after adult)  
I said a boom chicka boom,  
I said a boom chicka boom,  
I said a boom chicka rocka chicka rocka chicka boom,  
Uh-huh,  
Oh yeah,  
One more time,  
A little slower.

#### Additional Verses:

... One more time,  
A little faster.

... Oh yeah,  
The end!

### Old Black Fly

(Can also be sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

The old black fly is buzzing all around—buzz, buzz.  
(Wiggle fingers all around while buzzing like a fly)  
The old black fly is buzzing all around—buzz, buzz.  
He flies here, he flies there,  
And he buzzes everywhere,  
The old black fly is buzzing all around—buzz, buzz.

#### Additional Verses

The old black fly is sitting on my toe—buzz, buzz...  
(Buzz fingers by toes)  
The old black fly is sitting on my knee—buzz, buzz...  
(Buzz fingers by knees)  
The old black fly is sitting on my arm—buzz, buzz...  
(Buzz fingers on one arm)

#### Last Verse

The old black fly is done buzzing around—no buzz!  
(Clap twice loudly on "no buzz")  
The old black fly is done buzzing around—no buzz!  
(Clap twice loudly on "no buzz")  
He flew here, he flew there, (Wiggle fingers all around)  
And he buzzed everywhere,  
The old black fly is done buzzing around—no buzz!  
(Clap twice loudly on "no buzz")

### Letter Shapes

(Hold up each letter; child traces imaginary letters with his fingers)  
The letter S looks like a snake.  
The letter O is easy to make.  
The letter C on its side looks like a bowl.  
The letter H looks like a football goal.  
The letter I looks like a pole for flags  
And the letter Z zigs, zigs, and zags.