

Now I Know My ABCs

Presenter Tip Sheet

About This Storytime

Recognizing letters and knowing that letters make sounds are important preschool skills. This storytime will introduce letters of the alphabet and encourage parents not to drill their children in reciting them or recognizing them out of context.

Books

For books to share in this storytime, pick three from the list below, or choose other books in your collection that reflect the theme and are developmentally appropriate for fours and fives. Always share your longest book first. For your second, try to choose a participatory book that engages the children and ask the caregivers to join in. For the third and last story, share a book told through the use of a flannel board or magnetic board, or use a prop or other visual. The examples provided in the storytime program fit these guidelines.

Book Suggestions:

- *Alphabet*, by Matthew Van Fleet (Simon & Schuster, 2008)
- *Alphabet Under Construction*, by Denise Fleming (Henry Holt, 2002)
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault (Beach Lane, 2009)
- *G Is for Goat*, by Patricia Polacco (Puffin, 2006)
- *I Stink!* by Kate McMullan (HarperCollins, 2002)
- *LMNO Peas*, by Keith Baker (Beach Lane, 2010)
- *Old Black Fly*, by Jim Aylesworth (Henry Holt, 1992)
- *The Racecar Alphabet*, by Brian Floca (Atheneum, 2003)
- *The Sleepy Little Alphabet*, by Judy Sierra (Knopf, 2009)
- *Toot and Puddle: Puddle's ABC*, by Holly Hobbie (Little, Brown, 2000)

Songs

This storytime includes five songs. The same opening song and closing song should be used each week if you are holding a series of storytime programs. Always provide some type of movement or motions to accompany each song. Using recorded music during the storytime is fine, but try to sing some songs with a live voice so that children can hear the words and the sounds making up each word. The Very Ready Reading Program includes CDs with all the songs in the storytimes, recorded at an appropriate tempo for this age group. Track numbers for each recording are provided in the songlist below and on the storytime program card.

Songs for This Storytime:

- Opening Song: "Moving Hands" (sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell") 🎧 2.08 🎵 2.09
- "Reader Wiggle" (sung to the tune of "Hokey Pokey") 🎧 2.15
- "Alphabet Song" (sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star") 🎧 1.02
- "Bingo" 🎧 1.05
- Closing Song: "Library Storytime Song" (sung to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad") 🎧 2.01 🎵 2.02

Alternate Songs:

- "Alphabet Boogie" by Thomas Moore, *I Am Special Just Because I'm Me*. CD Baby, 1986.
- "ABC Rock" by Greg and Steve, *We All Live Together, Volume 1*. Young Heart Music, 2000.
- "A, You're Adorable" by John Lithgow, *Singin' in the Bathtub*. Sony Wonder, 1999.
- "Alphabet Train" by Dr. Jean, *Just for Fun!* Music Design, 2007.
- "Alphabet Forward and Backwards" by Dr. Jean, *Keep on Singing and Dancing*. Music Design, 2007.
- "Alphabet March and Match" by Pam Schiller, *Leaping Literacy*. Kimbo, 2005.
- "ABC Nursery Rhyme Game" by Pamela Beall and Susan Nipp, *Wee Sing: In the Car*. Price Stern Sloan, 2005.
- "Can a Jumbo Jet Sing the Alphabet?" by Hap Palmer, *Can a Jumbo Jet Sing the Alphabet?* Hap-Pal Music, 1998.

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Rhymes

This storytime includes three rhymes. The rhymes used in these storytimes have motions that are appropriate for fours and fives with developing fine motor skills.

Rhymes for This Storytime:

- “Boom Chicka Boom” (echo rhyme)
- “Old Black Fly”
- “Letter Shapes”

Activities

This storytime includes an optional theme-related activity, to be completed after the closing song. Here are three to choose from. The activity you choose might depend on the size or predominant age of your audience, the amount of time you have to prepare, your space or environment, and the materials needed. The activities are designed with safety and the attention spans and fine motor abilities of fours and fives in mind. However, always keep in mind and remind caregivers: **Any time an activity involves materials such as paint, sand, string, or small pieces, close adult supervision is required.** Although each activity has a learning aspect, the emphasis should be on having fun!

Activity Suggestions:

Play Dough Letters. Have children use play dough to make letters. Help them roll the dough into “snakes” and then shape into letters. You may want to provide index cards with letters written in fat marker for them to use as guides.

String a Word. Use a margarine container lid as a template for circles and cut the circles out. Punch a hole on the top and bottom of each circle. Give children one circle for each letter of their names. Adults can use markers to print children’s names on the circles, one letter at a time, or they can use a pencil and children can trace over each letter with a marker. Adults then help string yarn through the top and bottom of each circle to make a vertical banner that spells the child’s name.

Bingo Name Puzzles. Download a Bingo Name Puzzle from www.upstartpromotions.com/upstart/pages/reproducibles for each child. Cut out the rectangles, but do not cut puzzle pieces until after you laminate. Place each puzzle in a resealable plastic bag. Invite children to put the puzzles together and then place them in a baggie to take home.



Early Literacy Tips

Throughout each storytime program, you’ll find yellow boxes that feature early literacy tips. As you present your program, share these tips with parents and caregivers to help promote the **7 Days • 7 Ways** principles. The tips are designed to easily be infused into the storytime without interrupting the natural flow of the program for children. The Caregiver Tip Sheets you will hand out at the end of each program reiterate the literacy tips you shared during the storytime.