

DECEMBER 2021 • VOL. 10

EARLY LITERACY SPOTLIGHT



🎵 As simple as... ABC! 🎵

BEFORE KIDS CAN LEARN TO READ,
THEY LEARN THAT LETTERS HAVE
NAMES AND REPRESENT SOUNDS...
THAT'S LETTER KNOWLEDGE!

Letter knowledge helps children discover the code of reading and writing words. If children start school with some letter knowledge, they will have a greater likelihood of mastering phonics and becoming fluent readers and writers! Also note, children with strong letter knowledge are able to identify letters in any order.

Playing with shapes is a great way to introduce letter knowledge to babies and toddlers. For example, talk about how a **big square** and a **little square** are **both squares**. This prepares your child to understand lowercase and uppercase letters.

The 5 Practices

1) Sing

2) Talk

3) Read

4) Write

5) Play





Fun Ways to Build Letter Knowledge

- Sing "The Alphabet Song" to the tune of other familiar songs, like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" or "Mary Had a Little Lamb."
- Read alphabet books, but don't worry about reading the pages in order.
- Point to letters and numbers in books, and look for shapes inside letters.
- Go on a letter hunt: Can you find items around the house that have a letter on them? Or, choose a letter and find all the items around your house that start with that letter!

Learn how to make your own chalkboard:
www.cometogetherkids.com/2012/09/make-your-own-chalkboards-with.html

B-I-N-G-O

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,
 (clap on each letter)
 And BINGO was his name-o!

A Circle is a Shape (Tune: Wheels on the Bus)

A circle is a shape that goes round and round,
 round and round, round and round
 A circle is a shape that goes round and round
 Round and round

Extra verses:

A triangle is a shape with three sides...
 A square is a shape with four sides...

Alphabet & Shape Books

THE FOLLOWING ARE ALL
 AVAILABLE AT RADNOR LIBRARY:

- **Round is a Mooncake** by Roseanne Thong
- **LMNO Peas & LMNO Pea-quel** by Keith Baker
- **Alphabet Mystery** by Audrey Wood
- **Alpha Oops!** By Alethea Kontis
- **Alphabet Under Construction** by Denise Fleming
- **Eating the Alphabet** by Lois Ehlert
- **Z is for Moose** by Kelly Bingham
- **K is for Keystone: A Pennsylvania Alphabet** by Kristen Kane
- **G is for Goat** by Patricia Polacco
- **Shapes series** by Tana Hoban

LETTER AND NUMBER HUNT!



Write letters and numbers
 on small pieces of paper.
 Say a letter or number out
 loud and have your child search around for it!



DECEMBER 2021

Daily literacy-building activities to share with your child.

SUNDAY

5 COUNTING

Weigh your child and write it here _____. Compare it to January and June.

12 READING

Read a fiction and nonfiction book about winter. Your library has many to choose from!

19 WRITING

Have each family member write one thing they liked about this week. Have your child decorate the paper.

26 PLAYING

Go for a short walk after dark. What do you see? What does it feel like outside?

MONDAY



6 READING

Read books about different holidays and how people celebrate them.

13 WRITING

Draw a circle, square, triangle, and rectangle, and have your child color them in. Talk about shapes and point them out today.

20 PLAYING

Use play dough or cloud dough to make a snowman.

27 TALKING

Talk about favorite things that happened in 2020.

TUESDAY



7 WRITING

Wrap and unwrap blocks with tin foil. This helps strengthen writing muscles and manual dexterity.

14 PLAYING

Trace a variety of different objects on a piece of paper. Match the objects to their shapes.

21 TALKING

Talk about the seasons: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall.



28 SINGING

Sing nonsense words to a familiar tune. Sha la la. Doo bee doo bee do bee do wop bop, etc.

WEDNESDAY

1 WRITING

Make a winter card to send to someone special. Who will you send it to? Use a stamp and post the letter in a mailbox.

8 PLAYING

Pretend to be an animal that likes cold weather. Who will you be?

15 TALKING

At mealtimes, talk about the food you are preparing, what tools you are using, how you are making it, and how it will taste.

22 SINGING

Sing "Cold and Snowy Morning." (Words are on the back ➡)

29 COUNTING

Work together to put a stack of children's books in order from largest to smallest.

THURSDAY

2 PLAYING

Make an indoor fort with sheets and furniture. Cuddle together and read favorite books.

9 TALKING

Talk about your feelings. What made you happy today?

16 SINGING

Recite "Three Little Kittens." (Words are on the back ➡)



23 COUNTING

Name three things that are white like snow.



30 READING

Snuggle together and read a book of nursery rhymes. The library can help you find one.

FRIDAY

3 TALKING

Talk about family traditions you'll celebrate this month. Look at photos from previous years and talk about things you will do again this year.

10 SINGING

Sing "The Frost Song." (Words are on the back ➡)

17 COUNTING

Make a high tower with blocks. How many blocks did you use?

24 READING

Write letters on strips of paper, add them to a container and have your child draw one. Use that letter as the letter of the day. Spend the day finding the letter.

31 WRITING

With your child, write a list of things you plan to do in 2022.



SATURDAY

4 SINGING

Change the way you sing a familiar song. Sing it faster or slower. Change up the words.

11 COUNTING

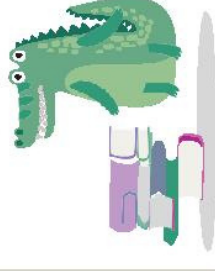
Measure your child's height and mark it here _____. Compare it to January and June.

18 READING

Be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading a book, magazine, or newspaper.

25 WRITING

Pick one color and only use that to cover a whole page with scribbles and pictures.



Your library helps children get ready to read.

- The library has many materials and ideas you can use to talk, sing, read, write, play, and count with your child. It doesn't matter if your child is four days old or four years old, we have books, music, programs, and services to help your child develop language and prereading skills.
- We have books to read together, music to borrow, places where you can write, places to play and learn, and programs for all ages.

THE THREE LITTLE

KITTENS

The three little kittens, they lost
their mittens,
And they began to cry,
"Oh, mother dear, we sadly fear,
That we have lost our mittens."
"You lost your mittens?"
Your poor little kittens.
Well, let us have some pie.
Meow, Meow, Meow
Let us have some pie."

THE FROST SONG

*Sing to the tune of
"The Farmer in the Dell"*

The frost is in the air.
The frost is in the air.
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,
The frost is in the air.

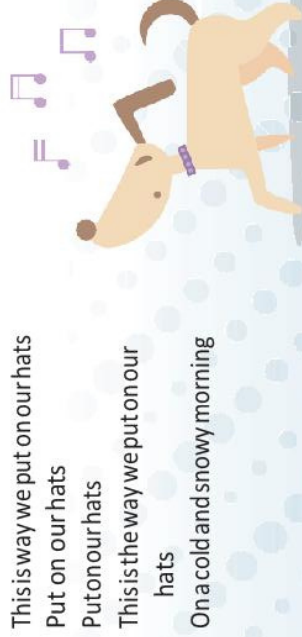
The frost tells me it's cold.
The frost tells me it's cold.
It's wintertime, it's wintertime,
The frost tells me it's cold.

SING OTHER VERSES IN WHICH THE
FROST IS "ON THE ROOF," "ON THE
WINDOWS," AND "ON THE GROUND"

COLD AND SNOWY MORNING

Sing to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we put on our mittens	This is the way we shovel the snow
Put on our mittens	Shovel the snow
Put on our mittens	Shovel the snow
This is the way we put on our mittens	This is the way we shovel the snow
On a cold and snowy morning	On a cold and snowy morning
This is the way we put on our coats	This is the way we build a snowman
Put on our coats	Build a snowman
Put on our coats	Build a snowman
This is the way we put on our coats	This is the way we build a snowman
On a cold and snowy morning	On a cold and snowy morning.



Books to Read this Month

Check out these books at the library. If they are not available,
ask the librarian for a recommendation.

FOR READERS AGES 0-3

Who? A Celebration of Babies

by Robie Harris

Baby Beluga board book

by Raffi

FOR READERS AGES 3-5

Stars

by Mary Lyn Ray

This is Not My Hat

by Jon Klassen

