

Resources for an Early Literacy Storytime

About Using This Kit

This kit is intended to be a jump start for children's librarians who would like to start incorporating early literacy into their storytimes. Early Literacy Storytimes are not about radically changing what you already do in your storytimes. We all incorporate early literacy into storytimes. Early Literacy Storytimes are different in that you are more mindful of how you highlight early literacy skills in your storytimes and in that you explain to parents and caregivers how you are reinforcing those skills.

Begin by reviewing the Early Literacy Training Powerpoint entitled, "Storytime Basics." This will give you a good introduction to early literacy skills, how to incorporate them into your storytime, and how to communicate them to parents.

Next, look through the items in the kit. Three early literacy skills are highlighted in this kit: Letter Awareness, Phonological Awareness, and Narrative Skills. Materials are included for one storytime highlighting each skill. So, that's three storytimes total. You will find picture books, resource books and materials, and items to use in your storytime. You may choose to use the materials in your storytime presentation or as parent/child activities after storytime. I would recommend trying the latter if you have never done it before. Many of us use crafts as an after storytime activity and many craft ideas are included in this resource guide. However, it can also be fun to set up 3 or 4 "centers" around the storytime room and allow caregivers and children to try them out on their own. You can use the materials included in the kit or you can create centers using some of the ideas in this resource guide.

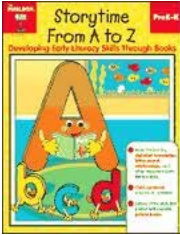
Also, don't forget to check out the other resources on the flash drive. You will find templates for storytimes and activities there. If you find new ideas please feel free to add them to the flash drive to share with others.

Good luck and have fun with your storytimes!

Sincerely,

Heather Dieffenbach
Children's and Youth Services Consultant
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Resource Books



Storytime From A to Z: Developing Early Literacy Skills Through Books

Young children are naturally curious and absorb information quickly. With Storytime From A to Z, learning the alphabet can be fun and easy! Each unit in this resource is based on a favorite children's book and a letter of the alphabet. Inside the units you'll find creative activities that build phonemic awareness, letter recognition, letter-sound relationships, listening and reading comprehension, writing skills, and other important early literacy skills. You'll also find crafts, songs, reproducible activities, patterns, classroom displays, and much more.



The Early Literacy Kit: A Handbook and Tip Cards by Betsy Diamant-Cohen and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting

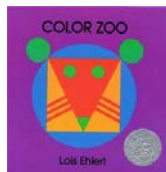
This innovative and practical kit gives the storytime presenter information on the developing standards for school readiness and aids to spread the word about school readiness skills to parents and caregivers of children from birth to age five. The kit includes:

- * An accessible handbook with a resource section
- * 104 reusable tip cards with coordinated activities
- * A concise summary of important school readiness research

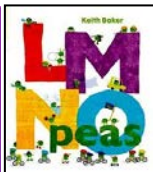
Books and Resources – Letter Knowledge



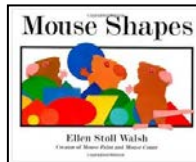
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin



Color Zoo by Lois Ehlert



LMNO Peas by Keith Baker



Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stohl Walsh



Literature Based Alphabet Center

Songs and Fingerplays – Letter Knowledge

Itsy Bitsy Monkey

The Itsy Bitsy Spider

The itsy bitsy monkey climbed up the coconut tree
(Pretend to be climbing up a tree)
Down came a coconut & hit him on his knee- OWWW!
(Make a fist & hit knee)
Out came a lion a shakin his mighty mane---ANNND---
(Frame face with hands to look like a lion & shake head)
The itsy bitsy monkey climbed up the coconut tree.

Boom Chicka Boom (Echo Chant)

I said a boom chicka boom.
I said a boom chicka boom.
I said a boom chicka boom.
I said a boom chicka boom.
I said a boom chicka rocka
chicka rocka chicka boom
Uh huh! Uh huh! Oh yeah! Oh yeah!
One more time . . .

Monster style . . .

Opera style . . .

Rock and roll . . .

Hold your nose . . .

Underwater . . .

Leprechaun . . .

“Where Is...?” *Where Is Thumbkin?*

Where is triangle? Where is triangle?
Here I am. Here I am.
How are you today, sir? Very well, I thank you.
Run away. Run away.
(Circle, rectangle, square, diamond)

The Letter Bus: Enlarge, color, cut out, and laminate a copy of the school bus pattern. Have a student lightly tape a letter card to the bus; then lead youngsters in singing the song shown. Repeat this rollicking tune several times with different cards!

The (D) on the bus says, “(d,d,d),
(d,d,d,d,d,d),”
The (D) on the bus says, “(d,d,d),”
All the way to school!

Where Is Little Cloud?



“Little Cloud, are you behind the green rectangle? Are you behind the blue triangle?”

Big Round Sun

Big round sun in the summer sky
Hold arms in circle over head
Waved to a cloud that was passing by
Wave!
The little cloud laughed as it started to rain
Wiggle fingers downward for rain
And out came the big round sun again.
Hold up arms in circle above head again

JINGLE BELLS

Jingle Bells
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to play at
story time today! (repeat)

Listen to my song
 about the letter "B"
Babies, books and bells
 Bears and bumblebees!

Bananas, boats, and beds
 Bats and balls and blue
Bye-bye, brothers, boys
 Are you ready? Peek-a-B00!
(cover face and show on BOO)

Alphablocks: Challenge the children to make alphabet letters with blocks.

Mouse Shapes Flannel Board



Print out PDF here:

https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=explorer&chrome=true&srcid=0B1LnZikkZXaqZjIyZTM0YzUtOGEyZS00ZGUyLTlmZDYtYzgwMmRkNGY2NjI3&hl=en_US

Triangles...

(Jingle Bells)

Triangles, triangles,
Have three sides.
Triangles, triangles,
Have three sides.
You can draw big triangles
In the air,
It is fun to use your hands
And make them anywhere.

One Blue Square...

(Three Blind Mice)

One blue square, one blue square,
See how it's shaped, see how it's shaped.
Four big corners it does have,
Four big corners it does have.
One blue square, one blue square.

Make A Shape...

(The Mulberry Bush)

This is the way we make a square,
Make a square, make a square,
This is the way we make a square,
So early in the mourning.

The Rolling Circle Song...

(Have You Ever Seen A Lassie?)

Have you ever seen a circle, a circle, a circle?
Have you ever seen a circle, which goes 'round and 'round?
It rolls this way and that way,
And this way and that way.
Have you ever seen a circle, which goes 'round and 'round?

Shapes Hokey Pokey

Put a red (name of shape) in,
Put a red (name of shape) in,
Put a red (name of shape) in,
And shake it all about.
Do the hokey pokey
And turn yourself around-
That's what it's all about.

Who Knows the Alphabet?

Listen to the tune here:

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/readinglanguagearts/abcsongs/abcalphabetsounds.htm>

Hands on hips and bounce to beat while singing the words. Stomp 4 times with the beat between each sentence.

Who knows the alphabet?
Who knows the alphabet?
Who knows the alphabet?
Who knows the alphabet?

Who knows the letter A?

--A--A--A--A

Stomp right foot 4 times while saying each letter.

Who knows the letter B?

--B--B--B--B

Who knows the letter C?

--C--C--C--C

Who knows the letter D?

--D--D--D--D

Who knows the letter E?

--E--E--E--E

Who knows the letter F.....

..... Z

Who knows the alphabet?

Hands on hips and bounce to beat while singing the words. Stomp 4 times with the beat between each sentence.

Who knows the alphabet?

Who knows the alphabet?

Who knows the alphabet?

Apples and Bananas

Listen to the tune here:

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/songsthatteach/applesbananas.htm>

I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat apples and bananas.
I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat apples and bananas.

I like to ate, ate, ate, ate. I like to ate aipples and banainais.
I like to ate, ate, ate, ate. I like to ate aipples and banainais.

I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat eapples and banenes.
I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat eapples and banenes.

I like to ite, ite, ite, ite. I like to ite ipples and baninis.
I like to ite, ite, ite, ite. I like to ite ipples and baninis.

I like to ote, ote, ote, ote. I like to ote opples and banonos.
I like to ote, ote, ote, ote. I like to ote opples and banonos.

I like to ute, ute, ute, ute. I like to ute uepples and banunus.
I like to ute, ute, ute, ute. I like to ute uepples and banunus.

I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat apples and bananas.
I like to eat, eat, eat, eat. I like to eat apples and bananas.

The Shape Song

Tune: Farmer in the Dell

A circle's like a ball,
A circle's like a ball,
Round and round
It never stops.
A circle's like a ball!

A square is like a box,
A square is like a box,
It has four sides,
They are the same.
A square is like a box!

A triangle has 3 sides,
A triangle has 3 sides,
Up the mountain,
Down, and back.
A triangle has 3 sides!

A rectangle has 4 sides,
A rectangle has 4 sides,
Two are long, and

Two are short.
A rectangle has 4 sides!

Round is a Pancake

Round is a pancake,
Round is a plum,
Round is a doughnut,
Round is a drum.
Round is a puppy,
Curled up on a rug.
Round are the spots,
On a wee ladybug.
Look all around,
On the ground, in the air,
You will find round things everywhere!

Circle Song

(to the tune of: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

A circle is a shape that goes round.
A circle is a shape that goes round.
A circle is a shape that goes round,
And round and round.

A circle is a shape that goes round.
Tiptoe slowly on the circle and go round.
Tiptoe slowly on the circle and go round.
Tiptoe slowly on the circle,
And go round and round and round.
Tiptoe slowly on the circle and go round.

Suzy Circle

I'm Suzy Circle.
I'm happy as can be.
I go round and round.
Can you draw me?

Circle

Here's a circle
Here's a circle
How can you tell?
It goes round and round
No end can be found
Here's a circle
Here's a circle.

Make A Circle

(to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel")

Round and round on the paper I go,
What fun to go around like so,
What have I made, do you know?
I made a circle!

Sammy Square

Sammy Square is my name.
My four sides are just the same.
Turn me around, I don't care.
I'm always the same.
I'm Sammy Square.

Make A Square

(to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

From the bottom to the top,
Straight across and then you stop,
Straight down to the bottom again,
Across and stop where you began,
If the lines are the same size,
Then a square is your surprise.

The Square Song

(to the tune of "You Are My Sunshine")

I am a square, a lovely square
I have four sides; they're all the same
I have four corners, four lovely corners
I am a square, that is my name!

Ollie Oval

I am Ollie Oval
A football shape is mine
Some people think that I'm an egg
But I think I look fine!

Right Circle, Left Square

Close my eyes, shut them tight,
Make a circle with my right.
Keep them shut, make it fair,
With my left hand, make a square.

Tommy Triangle

I'm Tommy Triangle.
Look at me!

Count my sides.
One, two, three.

This Is a Triangle

(to the tune of: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

This is a triangle,
Look and you will see.
It has three corners and three sides.
Count them one, two, three!

My Hat

My hat it has three corners,
Three corners has my hat,
And if it didn't have three corners,
It wouldn't be a hat!

Make a Triangle

(to the tune of "Three Blind Mice")

One, two, three; one, two, three
Do you see? Do you see?
Up the hill and to the top,
Down the hill--and then you stop,
Straight across; tell me what have you got?
A triangle--a triangle!

Ricky Rectangle

Ricky Rectangle is my name.
My four sides are not the same.
2 are short and 2 are long.
Count my sides, come right along.
1, 2, 3, 4.

It's a Rectangle

(to the tune of: "B-I-N-G-O")

There is a shape that has four sides,
But it is not a square...No!
It's a rectangle;
It's a rectangle;
It's a rectangle;
It is not like a square...No!
Two sides are long; two sides are short.
They are not the same...No!
It's a rectangle;
It's a rectangle;
It's a rectangle;
The sides are not the same...No!

Make A Rectangle

(to the tune of "The Eensy, Weensy Spider")

A long line at the bottom,
A long line at the top,
A short line to connect each side,
A rectangle you've got!
A short line at the bottom
A short line at the top
A long line to connect each side
A rectangle you've got!

Danny Diamond

I am Danny Diamond
I am like a kite
But I'm really just a square
Who's corners are pulled tight.

Harry Heart

Harry Heart is my name,
The shape I make is my fame,
With a point on the bottom,
And two humps on top,
When it comes to love,
I just can't stop!

Shape Song

(to the tune of: "The Farmer in the Dell")

A circle's like a ball,
A circle's like a ball,
Round and round
It never stops.
A circle's like a ball!
A square is like a box,
A square is like a box,
It has four sides,
They are the same.
A square is like a box!
A triangle has 3 sides,
A triangle has 3 sides,
Up the mountain,
Down, and back.
A triangle has 3 sides!
A rectangle has 4 sides,
A rectangle has 4 sides,
Two are long, and

Two are short.
A rectangle has 4 sides!

Shapes

(to the tune of: "Frere Jacques")

This is a square. This is a square.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It has four sides,
All the same size.
It's a square. It's a square.
This is a circle. This is circle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It goes round and round,
No end can be found.
It's a circle. It's a circle.
This is a triangle. This is a triangle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It only has three sides,
That join to make three points.
It's a triangle. It's a triangle.
This is a rectangle. This is a rectangle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It has two short sides,
And it has two long sides.
It's a rectangle. It's a rectangle.

What Shape is This?

Sung to: "The Muffin Man"

Do you know what shape this is,
What shape this is, what shape this is?
Do you know what shape this is
I'm holding in my hand?

The Square Song

Sung to: "You are my Sunshine"

I am a Square, a lovely Square,
I have four sides, they're all the same.
I have Four corners, Four lovely corners,
I am a Square, that is my name.

The Triangle Song

Sung to: "POP! Goes the weasel"

I am a small triangle
I have three sides you see.
I also have three corners.
They're just right for me.

Shapes

Sung to: "Frere Jacques"

This is a square, this is a square,
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It has four sides,
All the same size.
It's a Square, It's a Square.
This is a circle, this is a circle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It goes round and round,
No end can be found.
It's a circle, It's a circle.
This is a triangle, this is a triangle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It only has three sides,
That join to make three points.
It's a Triangle, It's a triangle.
This is a Rectangle, This is a rectangle.
How can you tell? How can you tell?
It has two short sides
And it has two long sides.
It's a rectangle, It's a rectangle.

Triangles

Sung to: "Jingle Bells"

Triangles, triangles,
Have three sides.
Triangles, triangles,
Have three sides.
You can draw big triangles
In the air,
It is fun to use your hands
And make them anywhere.

It's A Rectangle

Sung to: "B-I-N-G-O"

There is a shape that has four sides,
But it is not a square NO!!
It's a rectangle; It's a rectangle; It's a rectangle;
It is not like a square NO!!
Two sides are long; two sides are short.
They are not the same NO!!
It's a rectangle; It's a rectangle; It's a rectangle;
The sides are not the same NO!!

Shape Song

Sung to: "To the tune of: London Bridges"

Circles, diamonds, triangles,
triangles, triangles,
Circles, diamonds, triangles,
Hearts, squares, and rectangles.

Shapes

Circles, rectangles, triangles, squares,
There are so many shapes out there.
Everywhere you look you'll see
Another shape. What will it be?

Square Shape Song

Sung to: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Put your square shapes in the air,
Hold it high and keep it there.
Put your square shape on your back,
Now please lay it on your lap.
Put your square shape on your toes,
Now please hold it by your nose.
Hold your square shape in your hand,
Now will everyone please stand.
Wave your square shape at the door,
Now please lay it on the floor.
Hold your square shape and jump, jump, jump,
Now throw your square shape way, way up.

Sensory and Extension Activities – Letter Knowledge

Letter Sensory Bin

Fill a beach pail with sand and mix in some plastic alphabet letters. Have students sit in a circle, placing the pail on a beach towel in the middle of the circle. Let each child take a turn pulling out a letter from the sand. Ask them to hand the letter to you. Then, see if the class knows the name of the letter. Once all of the letters are pulled from the sand, have students help count how many letters there are altogether. Stress that there are 26 letters in the alphabet.

Chicka Chicka Snack



Make a Chicka Boom Boom Tree from celery, peanut butter, and Alph-Bits cereal! Yum!



Chicka Chicka Bingo

Download the cards here:

<http://www.thevirtualvine.com/images/ccbb/CCBBabcbingo.pdf>

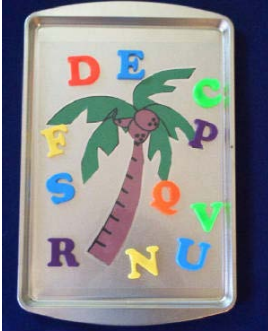
Alphabet Stick Puppets

Give each child 1-2 craft sticks with letters of the alphabet glued on the ends of each. As you read the story, have children hold up their letters when they hear them in the story.



Coconut Tree Matching

Program the upper part of a coconut tree with a capital letter. Program the tree trunk of the tree with a lowercase letter. Have children work in groups to match the corresponding letters and build all the trees.



Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Magnet Tree

Allow children to recreate the story of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom as the climb magnetic letters up the coconut tree.



Beanbag Throw

Write the alphabet outside with sidewalk chalk. Have the children toss beanbags onto the letters. Have them say the name of the letter that their beanbag falls on.

Letter Feely Bag



You will need something to use as a "feely" bag (it should be something the children can not see through) and magnetic letters. The teacher pours some letters in the feely bag and the first child comes and puts his/her hand in the bag and picks a letter and holds it in his/her hand inside the



feel bag. The child feels the letter with his/her fingers and tries to guess what letter it is. If he/she is right the letter is then removed from the bag and it is the next child's turn. If the child guesses the letter incorrectly the letter stays in the bag and it is the next child's turn. Continue play until each child has had a few turns. For larger groups of student it is better to divide them in to smaller groups so there is not a long wait between turns.



Letter Paint Cans

These are simple to set up yet lots of fun for the kids. Purchase empty paint cans (new and unused) from the paint supply section Home Depot or Lowes. The cans are around 2.50 each. I then put magnet letters in the cans. The cans come with a lid which is nice for labeling and storing each can. The children can take the cans out and just free-play with the letter by putting them on the cans in any order they wish. Have a caregiver sit with each child and go through the letters and numbers that they have placed on the cans and have them identify as many as they can. Children can find the letters to

their names and and put their names on the can. You could also have cans that have word cards placed inside them that the children can take out along with the letters and then make the words on the can that match the ones on the cards.

Finger Painting Bags



This is a great activity for children develop fine motor skills and practice drawing or writing in paint without the mess. You will need sandwich size zip lock bags (the kind that you snap together ... not the zipper kind) and finger paint. Open zip lock bags and put between 1/2 to 1/3 cup of finger paint in each bag. Lay bag flat and smooth finger paint flat in bag (this pushes the air out).... making sure not to get too close to the opening of the bag. Close zip lock bag making sure that it is close all the way across the top. Children use their finger to draw and write on the top of the bag. They can erase what they made by smoothing out the fingerpaint in the bag. Be sure to tell the children that the bags are not to be opened otherwise the finger paint will come out of the bag.

Shaving Cream Writing



This activity is a little messy but clean up is really easy. Purchase cookie sheets and shaving cream from your local dollar store. Put a mound of shaving cream on each tray and let the children smooth the

shaving cream all over the cookie sheet. They love the feeling of the shaving cream (be sure to tell the children not to touch their face or put mouth with their hands once they have shaving cream on them) and I let them free play with it for a while. Later the children each took turns calling out a letter ... number ... shape word ... that they wanted everyone to write in the shaving cream.

Letter Lacing Tags



This is a great activity that is easy and inexpensive to make. These lacing tags are perfect for developing fine motor skills as well as letter identification and sequencing skills. You will need colored cardstock paper (any craft store sells the paper as well as Wal-Mart). You will also need letter and number stickers or paper shapes (these can be found in the scrapbooking section of any craft store ... they are letters and numbers that are already cut out that you will need to apply glue stick to).

To make the tags you will need to cut the colored cardstock paper in to small squares or rectangles big enough for the letter or number stickers or cut outs to fit on. Put on one letter or number per card stock piece and laminate. Make sure you leave about 1/2 inch free above each tag when laminating... you will use this space to punch the holes in. Cut out tags leaving enough room (about 1/2 inch of clear lamination) ... punch two holes above each tag (see picture above).

Children can lace the cards in any order they wish or they can lace them in alphabetical order.

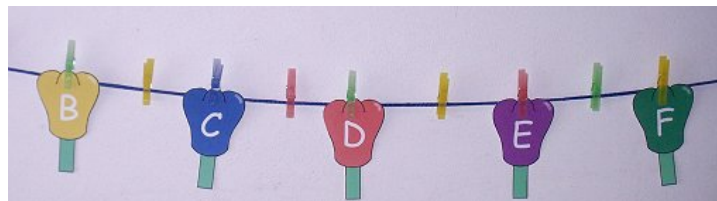
Letter Hide and Seek



This is a fun activity that develops visual discrimination and

letter recognition. Hide large letters around the room. Then place the small letter squares that matched the letters that were hidden into a paper bag. Have each child pick a letter out of the bag and find the letter that was on the small letter square. After you find all of the large letters, place them in alphabetical order on the floor.

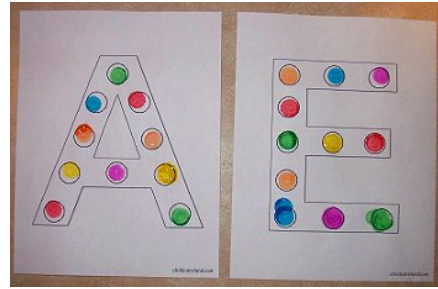
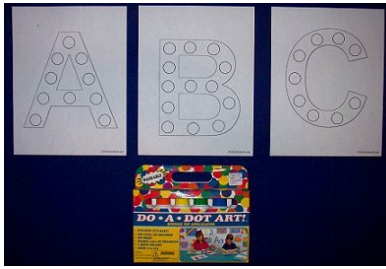
Clothesline Sequencing and Matching



Purchase a "classroom clothesline" from a teaching supply store. You can also make your own using regular or plastic coated clothesline and clothes pins. Mount the clothes line on a long wall and place clothespins along the length of the clothes line.

There are many ways you can use the clothesline. For the activity pictured about they gave the children a set of uppercase letters and had them hang the letters up on the clothesline (leaving one empty clothespin between each letter). They then gave them the lowercase letters to hang up next to the matching uppercase letter.

Alphabet Do-A-Dot



This activity is great for letter identification, hand-eye coordination and developing fine motors skills. Use do-a-dot paint (which is kind of like bingo markers) and letter sheets that which contain circles for the children to put the do-a-dot paint on.

Chicka Chicka Sensory Tub



Fill a tub with sand. Add some magnetic letters, a shovel, and a palm tree from a party store.

Alphabet Shape Match

Print out or copy the “Alphabet Shape Match” sheets. Color in the shapes, just like the colorful shapes in the book. Then cut out the rectangles, circles, and triangles. Don’t cut up the sheet with the letters.

Look at the letters together. Notice that some of the letters have curvy lines, and some have straight lines. Some of the straight lines go straight up and down and straight across, and other straight lines are slanted, or diagonal.

Take the shapes you cut and put circles over the letters with curvy lines...can you find them all? Take off the circles, then put rectangles on the letters with straight lines. Good job! Then take off the rectangles, and put triangles on the letters that have diagonal lines in them. How else can you play with the shapes and the letters?

Cereal-Spell: Give each child a handful of alphabet cereal. Invite the children to find all the letters of their names. After they spell their names with the cereal, invite them to eat the cereal.

Alphabet Caterpillar - What Letter Comes Next?



Start by putting the grass on the bottom of the felt board and the caterpillar head on the upper left corner of the felt board. Start by asking the children:

"Do you want to help me build a caterpillar?
Let's start with the letter A" (put up letter A next to caterpillar head) ... "What letter comes next?" ... (children shout out letter B ... put up letter B). "Our Caterpillar is growing! Let's make him bigger ... what letter comes next?" (children shout out the letter C ... put up letter C) ... continue this way until all of the letters are on the felt board. Sing the Alphabet Song while pointing to each letter... then randomly point to a letter and have children shout out what letter you are pointing to... when finished tell the children "Thank you for helping my build a caterpillar".

Alphabet Saucers: Print alphabet letters on 6" paper plates. Create a tossing "line" by placing a strip of masking tape on the floor. Encourage the children to toss the plates into a box or basket. Identify the letters on the plates as the children toss them. Make sure each child tosses a plate with the first letter of his name on it. This activity is for awareness only. Don't expect the children to recognize or identify the letters.

Playdough Letters: Show the children how to shape letters out of playdough. Demonstrate rolling the dough into balls and pinching the dough to make a design or break it apart . Working with the dough is more important than making letters. It strengthens all three hand muscles that will be needed for writing. Older children will enjoy watching you shape the first letters of their names.

Alphabet Jump: Print alphabet letters on paper plates. Spell each child's name on the floor using the letter plates. Encourage the children to "jump" the letters of their names. Call out each letter as they jump on it.

Name-O: For this small group game, give each student a supply of O-shaped cereal pieces and a tagboard strip programmed with her name. Place a set of letter cards in a bag. To play, remove a card and help children announce the letter name. Each child searches her card for the matching letter. If she finds the letter she covers it with a cereal piece each time it occurs in her name. Play continues until a child covers all of her letters and announces, "Name-O!" After verifying her letters, celebrate by inviting all of the group members to eat a few pieces of cereal. Then have the students clear their cards and play again.

The W Walk: In advance, attach a path of W cutouts to the floor in an open area. Place along the path picture of items whose names begin with W. Then invite a child to walk along the path of W's. Have her pick up and name each picture as she walks. If desired, invite her to pull a wagon behind her, placing the pictures in the wagon.

Alphabet Soup: Place a set of foam alphabet letters in a large pot. Add enough water to the pot so that the letters float. Lead children in reciting the poem shown while a child uses a ladle to stir the "soup." Then have him scoop up a letter and show it to the group. Ask youngsters to name the letter and its corresponding sound. Place the letter back in the pot and repeat the activity until each child has had a turn to stir the soup.

Yummy, yummy soup

*Really hits the spot.
It's filled with floating letters
And it's piping hot!*

Musical Shapes: Youngsters develop shape awareness with this engaging idea! Cut several supersize shapes from poster board; then laminate the shapes for durability. Scatter the shapes on the floor in your circle-time area. Play a recording of lively music and encourage little ones to dance. When you stop the music, call out a shape that was called. To aid little learners in finding the correct shape, hold up a small cutout identical to the large one that was called.

Block Shapes: Use a felt tip marker to trace around several different sizes and shapes of blocks on a piece of posterboard. Let the children take turns matching the blocks to the corresponding tracings.

Craft Ideas – Letter Knowledge



Handprint Trees with Alphabet Stickers



Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Bottle

Put letter glitter and other confetti inside the bottle and fill with water. Put letter stickers on the outside of the bottle. Students get to pound the bottle during the Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom refrain while reading the story.



Coconut Trees

Make a coconut tree by rounding the edges of 4 pieces of green construction paper, tearing the sides of a brown rectangle and writing X's down the tree trunk. Give the children letter stickers or foam letters to attach to the tree and ground. You might give them the letters from their name to attach.

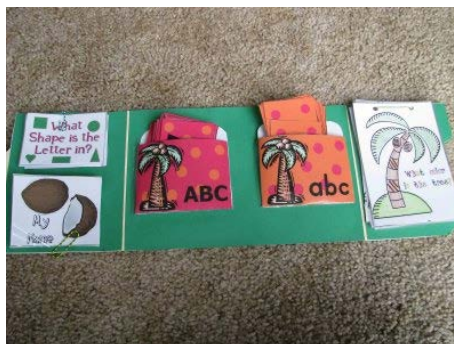
Stamping

Let the children use letter stamps to coconut trees.



stamp letters on their

Lap Books





Do this as a parent program. Invite the parents to create a Chicka Chicka Boom Boom lap book for their child to play with.

Toilet Paper Tube Tree



Have children draw 4 leaves from green construction paper. Using pinking shears, cut out the 4 leaves from the construction paper. Then, have the children gather the 4 leaves together and place scotch tape at the bottom of the leaves to secure them together. After that, have the children gently flatten one side of the toilet paper roll. Once done, have the children apply a magnet strip to the flattened side.

When ready, have the children stick letter and number stickers all along the round side of the tree trunk (toilet paper roll). Then, have the children insert the leaves into the opening at the top of the toilet paper roll. Lastly, have the children glue the pom poms onto the leaves.

And, voila, the children have now made a Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Magnetic Tree! It's time to stick this super fun kids alphabet craft to the fridge!

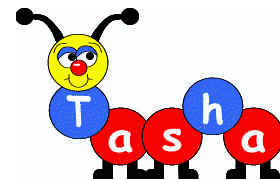
Shape Pictures



Give the children shape cut outs in different colors. Encourage them to make pictures from the shapes.

Alphabet Caterpillars:

Cut out caterpillar heads and feet for everyone. Cut out a number of multicolored circles. Give each child one circle for every letter in their name. Help the children write the letters of their names on the circles and paste them together to make a caterpillar.



Alphabet Snake:

Cut out snake heads for everyone. Cut out a number of green ovals. Give each child some ovals. Children can use the ovals to make snake related words or their names.



Alphabet Book:

Make a little booklet and write a letter of the alphabet on each page. Let the children draw a picture to go with each letter in their alphabet book.

Marble Paintings: Place a piece of drawing paper in the bottom of a shallow box. Place a couple of marbles into a cup of tempera paint and coat them with paint. Remove the marbles with a spoon and drop them into the box. Show the child how to rotate the box to make the marbles move back and forth. A great design will result. Discuss the roundness of the marbles and how being round helps the marbles roll.

Shape Rubbings: Cut shapes out of sandpaper. Place the sandpaper shapes under drawing paper and encourage the children to make crayon rubbings by rubbing a crayon over the shapes. Discuss the shapes as the children create their pictures.

Pea Letters

Use this one with LMNO Peas...



Phonemic Awareness



Llama, Llama, Red Pajama by Anna Dewdney
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
I Ain't Gonna Paint No More by Karen Beaumont
Sheep in a Jeep by Nancy Farmer



Rhyming Words Flip Books

Songs and Fingerplays – Phonemic Awareness

Songs are a great way to practice phonemic awareness. They help to isolate and stress phonemic sounds. Any song that rhymes is a great way to feature phonemic awareness in your storytime. Nursery rhymes and animal sounds also help children learn phonemic awareness.

Big Yellow Moon

Big yellow moon shines so bright, (Arms above head in circle shape.)
Glides across the starry night, (Arms move from left to right.)
Looks down at me (Hand shades eyes.)
Asleep in bed, (Hands together at side of face.)
Whispers, "Good night, sleepyhead." (Forefinger in front of mouth.)
Big yellow moon, your turn is done. (Arms above head move down in front of body.)
Here comes Mr. Morning Sun. (Arms move above head in circle shape.)
I wake up. (Arms stretch out.)
You go to bed. (Hands together at side of face.)
"Sleep well, Moon, you sleepyhead." (Forefinger in front of mouth.)

Diddle Diddle Dumpling

Diddle, diddle dumpling, my son John,
Went to bed with his stockings on;
One shoe off and one shoe on,
Diddle, diddle dumpling, my son John.

Time for Bed

Time for bed, time for bed
Fluff up the pillow, (make fluffing motions with hands)
Lay down your head. (palms together, hands to side of face)
Pull up the blanket, (pull imaginary blanket up to chin)
Tuck it in tight. (arms down tightly against sides)
Close your eyes(close eyes)
And sleep all night. (snore)

Wee Willie Winkie

Wee Willie Winkie runs through town (run fingers across your palm)
Upstairs (run fingers up arm)
Downstairs, (run down arm)
in his nightgown.
Rapping at the window (knock at the window)
Trying at the lock (turn hand like opening a lock)
Are the children all in bed? (shrug shoulders asking a question)
For now it's 8 o'clock. (tap "watch" on wrist)

Going to Bed

This little child is going to bed,
(point to self)
Down on the pillow he lays his head,
(rest head on hands)
He wraps himself in a blanket tight,
(hug yourself)
And this is the way he sleeps all night,
Zzzzzzz...ZZZZZZZZZ

Morning comes, he opens his eyes,
(raise head, eyes open wide)
Off with a toss the covers fly,
(fling arms wide)
Soon he is up and dressed and awake,
(jump up)
Ready for fun and play all day,
(clap hands and turn in a circle).

Twinkle, Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

Are You Sleepy?

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Dormez vous? Dormez vous?
Sonnez les matines, Sonnez les matines,
Din, din, don! Din, din, don!

English Version:

Are you sleeping, Are you sleeping?
Brother John? Brother John?
Morning bells are ringing, Morning bells are ringing,
Ding ding dong, Ding ding dong.

Good Night!

One fluffy quilt on my bed,
Two little pillows on my head,
Three teddy bears to hold tight
Four kisses from my mom for a restful night,
Five hugs from my dad,
And off goes my light,
Good Night!

Sleeping Time

Down comes the sun
And up comes the moon.
It will be sleeping time soon.
Birds are quiet in their trees.
Cows and horses rest on their knees.
Sleepy children are tucked into beds,
With good night kisses upon their heads.

To Bed, To Bed

To bed, to bed
To sleep the night away
Up again, up again
To greet a brand new day.

Golden Slumbers

Golden slumbers kiss your eyes,
Smiles await you when you rise.
Sleep,
pretty baby,
Do not cry,
And I will sing a lullaby.

Cares you know not,
Therefore sleep,
While over you a watch I'll keep.

Sleep,
pretty darling,
Do not cry,
And I will sing a lullaby.

Hush, Little Baby

Hush, little baby, don't say a word.
Papa's gonna buy you a mockingbird

And if that mockingbird won't sing,
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring

And if that diamond ring turns brass,
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass

And if that looking glass gets broke,
Papa's gonna buy you a billy goat

And if that billy goat won't pull,
Papa's gonna buy you a cart and bull

And if that cart and bull turn over,
Papa's gonna buy you a dog named Rover

And if that dog named Rover won't bark
Papa's gonna buy you a horse and cart

And if that horse and cart fall down,
You'll still be the sweetest little baby in town.

Rock-a-Bye Baby

Rock-a-bye baby, in the tree top
When the wind blows, the cradle will rock
When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall
And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Sleep, Baby, Sleep

Sleep, baby, sleep
Your father tends the sheep
Your mother shakes the dreamland tree
And from it fall sweet dreams for thee
Sleep, baby, sleep
Sleep, baby, sleep

Sleep, baby, sleep
Our cottage vale is deep

The little lamb is on the green
With snowy fleece so soft and clean
Sleep, baby, sleep
Sleep, baby, sleep

Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
Four little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed
One fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
One little monkey jumping on the bed
He fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said:
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
No little monkeys jumping on the bed
None fell off and bumped his head
Momma called the doctor and the doctor said
Put those monkeys back in bed!

Winkum

Winkum, winkum, shut your eyes,
While I sing sweet lullabies,
For the dews are falling soft,
Lights are flick'ring up aloft,
And the moon is peeping over
Yonder hilltop, capped with clover.
Chickens long have gone to rest,
Birds lie snug within their nest,
And my darling soon will be
Sleeping like a chickadee;
For with only half a try,
Winkum, Winkum shuts her eyes

All the Pretty Little Horses

Hush-a-bye, don't you cry
Go to sleepy little baby
Blacks and bays, dapples and grays,
Coach and six-a-little horses
Hush-a-bye, don't you cry
Go to sleepy little baby

Painting Fun

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

I know the colors for painting fun,
Green like the grass and yellow like the sun,
Orange like a pumpkin, white like the snow,
A ruby rose and a jet black crow.
Blue like a mailbox, brown like an ape,
A little pink pig and some purple grapes.

Red Light

Red on top, green below,
Red means stop, green means go,
Yellow means wait, even if you're late.
Sign stop, go, and wait.

3 Little Kittens

Three little kittens they lost their mittens, and they began to cry,
"Oh mother dear, we sadly fear that we have lost our mittens."
"What! Lost your mittens, you naughty kittens!
Then you shall have no pie."
"Meeow, meeow, meeow, now we shall have no pie."
The three little kittens they found their mittens,
And they began to cry,
"Oh mother dear, see here, see here
For we have found our mittens."
"Put on your mittens, you silly kittens
And you shall have some pie"
"Meeow, meeow, meeow,
Now let us have some pie."
The three little kittens put on their mittens
And soon ate up the pie,
"Oh mother dear, we greatly fear
That we have soiled our mittens."
"What! soiled your mittens, you naughty kittens!"
Then they began to cry, "Meeow, meeow, meeow"
Then they began to sigh.
The three little kittens they washed their mittens
And hung them out to dry,
"Oh mother dear, do you not hear

That we have washed our mittens."
"What! washed your mittens, you are good kittens."
But I smell a rat close by,
"Meeow, meeow, meeow" we smell a rat close by...

Green Eggs and Ham

Listen to the tune here:

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/classicalchildrensliterature/greeneggsandham.htm>

Green eggs and ham
Green eggs and ham
I like mine fried nice and brown.
I like mine turned upside down.

Green eggs and ham
Green eggs and ham
Flip them, flop them,
Don't drop them.

London Bridge

London bridge is falling down,
Falling down, falling down.
London bridge is falling down,
My sweet baby.
Come, let's take a walk around,
Walk around, walk around.
Come, lets take a walk around.
My sweet baby.

Clap Your Hands

Clap, clap, clap your hands
Slowly every day.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Then we shout "Hooray!"

Clap, clap, clap your hands
Faster every day.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Then we shout "Hooray!"
Roll your hands, shake your hands, pound your hands...

I Can Make My Hands Go Clap, Clap, Clap

To "The Wheels on the Bus"

I can make my hands go clap, clap, clap,
Clap, clap, clap,
Clap, clap, clap,

I can make my hands go clap, clap, clap,
They're a part of me.
*My eyes go blink, fingers go snap, feet go stomp, legs go jump,
tongue go click, hips go wiggle, lips go kiss.*

Clap, Clap, Clap Your Hands

To "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Clap, clap, clap your hands,
Clap them all around.
Clap them loud, then clap them soft,
Now don't make a sound.
Stamp, stamp, stamp your feet...

Sensory and Extension Activities – Phonemic Awareness

Snap and Clap Rhymes

Begin with a simple clap and snap rhythm. Get more complex as children move along in rhyming.

Clap Clap	Snap fall	Clap Clap	Snap ball
Clap Clap	Snap hall	Clap Clap	Snap small

A variation is the "I say, You say" game:

I say fall. You say _____. I say ball. You say _____.

Rhyming Word Sit Down

Children walk around in a big circle taking one step each time a rhyming word is said by the leader. When the leader says a word that doesn't rhyme, the children sit down:

she tree flea spree key bee sea went

Rhyming words in songs, poems, and big books

As you do shared reading with the students, pause at the end of phrases and let the students supply the rhyming words. After you have read the poem together ask students to find the rhyming words. Generate other words that rhyme with these rhyming words.

Syllable Clap

Talk with children about why knowing about syllables can help them when they read and write. Ask them to clap with you as you say these words:

sunshine	vacation	delicious	dinner
astronaut	alphabet	communication	calendar
school	wonderful	merry-go-round	television

Sound Substitution

Choose a song your students all know and substitute a consonant sound for the beginning of each word in the song.

Finkle, finkle, fittle far.
Rold Rickronald rad ra rarm
Sary sad sa sittle samb.

Or try Old Mac Donald Had a Farm making substitutions when singing about each new animal.

For a cow, sing, "kee-high, kee-kigh, koh!"

For a sheep, sing, "shee-shigh, shee-shigh, shoh!"

Rubber Band Stretch

Leader models with a large rubber band how to stretch out a word as the word is said. /mmmmmmmm-aaaaaaaa-nnnnnnnnn/ Then leader models with stretched out band how to bring rubber band back to original length and says the word fast: /man/. Children pretend to stretch rubber bands as they say the sounds in different words.



Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Word

Tell the children you are going to teach them a song that will help them discover new words by taking off parts (sounds) of the word. Teach this song and let them fill in the last word. After a few verses using new words, invite the children to sing along. Other possible words to use include: Beginning Sounds: boat (oat), farm (arm), meat (eat), bus (us), sled (lead), hand (and), & sit (it). Ending Sounds: hammer (ham), soap (so), little

(lit), meat (me), & boat (bow).

Head, Shoulders, Knees, & Toes

Give students a word with 1-4 phonemes (sounds). Have them stand up and touch their head, shoulders, knees, and toes as they are saying the sounds in words. For example, the word "cat" would be /c/ (head), /a/ (shoulders), and /t/ (knees). A great active, phonemic awareness activity for helping students with segmenting!



Phoneme Jumping

Place a green, yellow, and red mat on the floor (in that order). Begin by giving your child a word with 1-3 sounds. Have your child say the sounds they hear as they jump from mat to mat. For increased difficulty, move the mats so they are further apart.



Night Lights

Using inexpensive night lights is a great way to help children learn to say sounds in words. Line up the night lights and say a word. Have your child say the sounds in the word as they turn the lights on. Repeat this process with the same word, but have your child say the sounds while they turn off the night lights. (It's always a good idea to teach your child to work from left to right! This typically is best to do in the small group setting

when working on 1-4 phoneme words).

Mystery Bag

Using an old book bag filled with random objects is a great way to help children with rhyming. Find things that are of meaning to you or place objects in the book bag that will make them laugh. See how many words you can think of that rhyme with that object, even if it is not a real word!

Naming Environmental Sounds

Talk to the children about the importance of sounds and how they give us information. Listen to prerecorded animal, vehicle, or environmental sounds, or make your own. Have the children close their eyes while listening so they are not distracted. Ask them to name the sounds that they hear. End the activity by summarizing the importance of sounds and how they convey meaning.

Sequencing Sounds

Have the children listen to prerecorded, easily identified common sounds such as animals and vehicles, or make your own sounds. When they are done listening, have them tell you what order they heard the sounds in.

Circle Rhyme Game

Have the children stand in a circle while you walk around them. Recite a nursery rhyme as you walk (e.g., “Hickory Dickory Dock”), tapping a child’s shoulder as you say a rhyming word (e.g., dock and clock). The child that is tapped must then sit down. Continue with the rhyme until all of the children are sitting. Be sure to repeat the rhyming words and talk about them. Here are some other examples that will work also:

- One Potato, Two Potatoes
- I’m a Little Teapot
- Eensy Weensy Spider
- Pease Porridge Hot

Matching Pictures

Find pairs of pictures that rhyme. Place one set of pictures in a container and all of the rhyming pairs in another container. Have the children draw out two pictures (one from each container) and ask them if the two words rhyme. If they don’t, continue pulling out pictures from the second container until the child finds a matching rhyme. Continue with all remaining cards.

Which One Does Not Belong?

Show three consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pictures/words (e.g., “cat, log, dog”). Tell the children, “Two of these words rhyme, one does not rhyme. Can you tell me which one does not rhyme with the others?”

Hopscotch

Draw a hopscotch board on the floor with masking tape, or with chalk if you’re outdoors. Tape or place pictures in each square. Have the child toss a beanbag on a square, hop to that square and then say what’s in the picture. You read another word (sometimes a

rhyming word, sometimes not) and ask the child if it rhymes or not. If they answer correctly, they get another turn. If you have a group of children, have them take turns

Willaby Wallaby

In this game, the leader sings and uses the children's names to complete the rhyme:

- ~ Willaby Wallaby Wusan,
- ~ An elephant sat on Susan.
- ~ Willaby Wallaby Wark
- ~ An elephant sat on Mark.

-Tip: As the children catch on to the rhyming pattern, they can generate the rhyme using other names.

Engine and Caboose

Introduce the concept of producing rhyming words with train engines and caboose pictures or objects. Explain that when you make rhyming words, the caboose will always stay the same but the engines will be different. Pick a sound for the caboose (e.g., "at") and place many different engines in front to make rhyming words (e.g., h-, m-, c-).

"Did You Ever See?"

Sing the following lyrics to the tune "If You're Happy and You Know It."

- ~ Did you ever see a (cat) in a (hat)?
- ~ Did you ever see a (cat) in a (hat)?
- ~ No, I never, no, I never, no, I never, no I never,
- ~ No, I never saw a (cat) in a (hat).

Repeat with duck/truck, dog/log, ring/swing, rake/cake, or any other rhyming pairs. After singing these verses, challenge the children to come up with their own rhyming pairs to create new verses.

Hungry for K's

Tell the children, "We are on a special diet – we can only eat things that start with the /k/ sound." Fill up a lunch box with objects that begin with /k/ (e.g., carrots, corn, cucumbers, ketchup, etc.). To make it interesting, add other objects that start with /k/ but you wouldn't necessarily eat (e.g., cards, cat, cow, key). "Throw out" any spoiled items (i.e., objects that don't start with the special /k/ sound).

Sound Soup

Tell the children, "Today we'll be making Sound Soup - all the ingredients must begin with the /s/ sound." Fill the bowl with items such as salt, spaghetti, and strawberries. Add in some non-food items for fun (e.g., straws, socks, and sleeping bags). For additional fun and practice, have the children stir the soup.

Sorting Mail

Have three envelopes with a target sound printed on the outside of each. Have the children draw a picture from a pile and put it in the envelope with the same beginning

sound. If you are working with the same number of children as envelopes, assign each child to collect the “mail” that goes in their envelope.

Counting Words

Tell the children, “We are going to count words.” Using blocks or other objects with many pieces, have the children build a tower according to how many words are in the phrase.

-Tip: When generating phrases, try to use phrases relevant to the children and their environment. For example, “Jenny’s wearing blue today,” or “Alex likes to play soccer.” These sentences will help keep their attention on the activity.

Words are Parts

Have three children stand side-by-side in front of the room with the teacher. The teacher will read a three worded phrase. When the first word is read, the first child will jump and so on for the other two words. Begin by pointing to each child when it is their turn to jump. When facing the three children, have the child on the left start first. This will allow the class to see the left to right motions of reading print.)

Name Game

Write all of the children’s names on index cards and place in a basket. Sit in a circle and pass the basket from one child to the next when the music begins. When the music stops, whoever is holding the basket pulls out a card and reads the child’s name on the card. The class repeats the name and claps out the number of syllables or parts as they say the name (e.g. Mor-gan has 2 claps, Em-i-ly has 3). Continue with the music until all names have been pulled from the basket.

- Tip: When instructing the children, it may be easier to describe syllables as the different parts of the word. Be sure to give them examples.

Crafts – Phonemic Awareness

Llamas in Pajamas

Find templates and instructions here: http://toddlerapproved.blogspot.com/2011/03/read-across-america-book-week-llama_02.html



L is for Llama



Green Egg



Green Eggs and Ham Collage



Give the children torn up colored paper. Have them use the paper bits to create a collage.

Have the children glue their green eggs on their plate.



Use cottonballs to make a Sheep in a Jeep picture...



...or just to make a sheep.



Here's a cotton ball sheep with a paper plate.





Yarn Sheep

You can find the directions on how to make these adorable yarn sheep here:

http://sweetgrace.typepad.com/the_inadvertent_farmer/2010/01/baa-baa-black-pink-and-blue-sheep-an-easy-yarn-craft.html

They are a little to involved for storytime, but you can do a simplified version using just a cardboard cutout of a sheep and cheaper yarn. You just wind the yarn around the sheep's body.



Sheep Headband



Take two sheet of white printer paper or construction paper. Cut approximately a 4 inch strip lengthwise down the paper. With both pieces of paper still together scallop the edges. Staple the two pieces together to form a longer strip. Fit to child's head. Remove and staple to form a circle (halo). Cut lamb shaped ears. Attach to either side of the circle (halo). Glue Fiberfill or cotton balls to simulate wool. Wear with pride.

Paper Cup Sheep



Cut two holes in the side of a paper cup at the bottom so that a child can put his hand inside the paper cup and stick two fingers through the holes. Glue cotton balls all around the outside of the cup. (You must use a paper cup so that the cotton balls and glue will stick.) When the glue is dry, draw a sheep face on the bottom of the cup. Show your children how to put their fingers through the holes to make the sheep's feet.

Handprint Sheep



Begin by pouring some of the black paint on a paper plate. Have your card stock ready. Then, have your child dip his or her hand into the paint and make a handprint in the center of the card stock. Allow this to dry well. When the handprint is dry, it is time to decorate it. Turn the handprint upside down, so the fingers are pointing down. The fingers will be the sheep's legs, and the thumb is his tail. Use cotton balls, and

spread them apart slightly to glue them on the center of the sheep. Make the sheep's head by cutting an oval from black paper. I like to use the handle of my scissors as a template. Then glue on a googly eye. You can use a black marker to add a little ear.

I Ain't Gonna Paint...the Sidewalk



Give the children sidewalk paint and let them create masterpieces outside.

Self-Portraits



Have the children create self-portraits. Then have them make handprints by dipping their palms in paint and pressing them against clean paper. Cut out their handprints to add to their self-portrait.



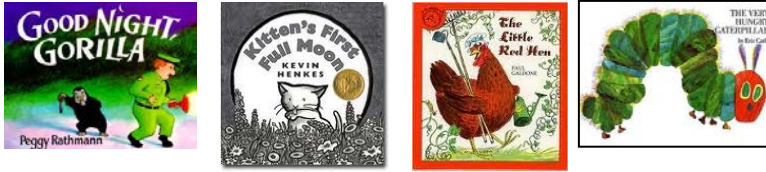
Or try this version using splatter paint instead of handprints.

Pudding Painting



Mix vanilla pudding and food coloring to make pudding paint.

Narrative Skills



Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathman
The Little Red Hen by Paul Galdone
Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Yummy: Eight Fairy Tales by Lucy Cousins



Literature Based Sequencing Center



Little Red Hen Flannelboard

Songs and Fingerplays – Narrative Skills

Songs and fingerplays that deal with counting or events in a sequence are all good tools to use in building sequencing skills. I have included some of those, plus some to go with the themes of the books.

Counting Alligators

Alligator one, alligator two.

I'm going to stomp my alligator shoes.

(Hold up one finger, then two, and stomp your feet)

Alligator three, alligator four.

I'm going to give my alligator roar.

(Hold up three, then four fingers, and roar three times)

Alligator five, alligator six.

I'm going to do some alligator tricks.

(Hold up five, then six fingers, then pretend to juggle)

Alligator seven, alligator eight.

I'm going to climb the alligator gate.

(Hold up seven, then eight fingers, then climb)

Alligator nine, alligator ten.

This must be the alligator end!

(Hold up nine, then ten fingers, clap your hands and turn around. Booty shaking is optional)

Five Little Monkeys

Five little monkeys swinging in a tree

Teasing Mr. Crocodile, "Can't catch me!"

Along came Mr. Crocodile quiet as can be,

SNAP!

(Four, three, two, one...)

No little monkeys swinging in the tree

Teasing Mr. Crocodile "Can't catch me!"

I'd better watch out or he might catch me!

A Little Apple Seed

Itsy, Bitsy Spider

Once a little appleseed was planted in the ground

Down came the raindrops, falling all around.

Out came the big sun, bright as bright could be

And that little apple seed grew to be an apple tree!

Five Little Apples

Five Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree

Five little apples sitting in a tree,

Teasing Mr. Slinky worm "Can't eat me",

Along comes Mr. Slinky worm quiet as can be...

and...CRUNCHED that apple right out of the tree.

(Repeat with:)

Four little apples...

Three little apples...

Two little apples...

One little apple...

Three Little Bubbles

Three little bubbles went out today.

(Hold up three fingers)

The first bubble said, "I want to play."

(Point to the first finger)

The second bubble said, "I'll race you to the top!"

(Point to the second finger)

The third little bubble just went POP!

(Clap hands)

Five Little Ocean Friends

Five little ocean friends

On the ocean floor;

The starfish walks away

Now there are four.

Four little ocean friends

Living in the sea;

The crab slides away

Now there are three.

Three little ocean friends

Looking for a clue;

"Glub, glup," said the lobster.

Now there are two.

Two little ocean friends

Not having much fun;

Off swam the sea house

Now there is one.

One little octopus

Sad and all alone,

Back swims the starfish,

Back swims the crab,

Back swims the lobster,

Back swims the sea horse,

And they played in the foam.

Five Little Fishes

5 Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree

Five little fishes, Swimming in the sea.

Teasing Mr. Shark, You can't catch me, You can't catch me.

Along comes Mr. Shark, As quiet as can be... Snap!

(Repeat with:)

Four little fishes, etc...

Five Little Shells Fingerplay

5 little shells lying on the shore,

Crash went the waves and then there were 4.

4 little shells down by the sea,

Crash went the waves! then there were 3.

3 little shells, smooth as new,

Crash went the waves! then there were 2.
2 little shells, sparkling in the sun,
Crash went the waves! Then there was 1.
1 little shell, left by itself,
I took it home, and put it on my shelf.

Ten in the Bed

Ten in the bed and the little one said,
"Roll over, roll over!"
They all rolled over and one fell out.
9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2,
One in the bed and the little one said,
"Alone at last. Good night!"

Five Little Kittens

(You can use the "Scat the Cat" felt pieces with this rhyme, too.)

Five little kittens, sleeping on a chair.
One rolled off, leaving four there.
Four little kittens, one climbed a tree
To look in a bird's nest; then there were three.
Three little kittens, wondered what to do.
One saw a mouse; then there were two.
Two little kittens, playing near a wall.
One little kitten chased a red ball.
One little kitten, with fur soft as silk,
Left all alone to drink a dish of milk.

One Banana

One banana, two banana, three banana, four;
All the little monkeys look around for more.
Five banana, six banana, all the way to ten;
The monkeys climb right up the trees
And s-l-i-d-e right down again.
Bananas here, bananas there, in every little tummy.
What do all the monkeys say?
"Yummy, yummy, yummy!"

Five Little Monkeys

(Use the glove and puppets or felt figures to act out this rhyme)

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed.
(Hold out one arm, bent at elbow, for the bed. Bounce hand, five fingers extended, on your arm)
One fell off and bumped his head.
(Change open hand to one finger, have it fall off the arm, then clutch head)
Mama called the doctor and the doctor said,
(Pantomime dialing the phone or holding the phone to your ear)

"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"
(Shake finger vigorously)
(Repeat using 4,3,2,and 1 little monkeys)

Monkey See, Monkey Do

Chorus:

Monkey see, monkey do.

Monkey does the same as you!

(Suit actions to words)

Oh when you clap, clap, clap your hands.

The monkey claps, claps, claps his hands.

(Chorus between each of following verses.)

Oh when you stamp, stamp, stamp your feet...

Oh when you jump, jump, jump up high...

Oh when you turn yourself around...

Prince with Feathered Cap

Here is a Prince with Feathered Cap,
(pretend to take off hat and bow)

Here are his boots, which go tap tap tap,
(tap feet)

Here is the Princess with a Crown
(pretend to hold crown over head)

Here is her lovely gown
(hold out gown and curtsy)

Here is the castle tall and wide
(spread out hands and arms tall and wide)

Where they can play safely inside!
(wrap arms around self and hug)

I'm a Little Princess

Tune: I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little princess, here's my crown.
Here are my slippers, here is my gown.
If the dragon finds me, I won't cry.
Feed his some cookies and wave goodbye!

I'm a little prince and here's my crown.
Here is my sceptre and here is my gown

If the dragon finds me, I won't cry
Feed him some cookies and wave goodbye.

Sensory and Extension Activities – Narrative Skills

Stone Soup

This is a fun way to tell the story of Stone Soup as a song. Add some gestures and additional verses of your own, if you wish. If you have a small group, you might bring a large cooking pot, some large spoons, a large stone, etc. so that the children can circle the pot and take turns stirring and adding ingredients. Getting the caregivers involved in the singing will help!

This is the way we make the soup,
Make the soup, make the soup,
This is the way we make the soup,
On cold and frosty evening.

This is the way we stir the pot,
Stir the pot, stir the pot,
This is the way we stir the pot,
On a cold and frosty evening.

This is the way we add some peas,
Add some peas, add some peas,
This is the way we add some peas,
On a cold and frosty evening.

Now it is time to add the stone,
Add the stone, add the stone,
Now it is time to add the stone,
To make a perfect supper.

Cereal Soup

Children love to stir things. If you have snack time at your storyhour, you might make “Cereal Soup” by letting the children mix several kinds of cereal in individual bowls.

Feed the Caterpillar



Decorate a paper bag like the caterpillar. Give the children pictures of the caterpillar's dinner and the book and have him feed the caterpillar as he looks through the book.

Color Changing Milk



Drop food coloring into a plate of milk. Dip a Q-tip into dish detergent. Use Q-tip to swirl and mix the colors.

Little Red Hen Puppet Play

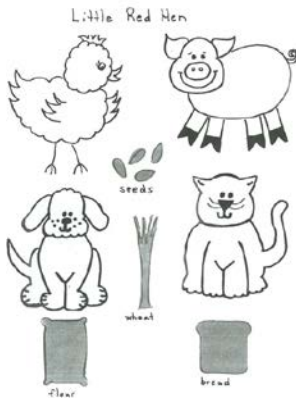


Have the children act out the story.

Children create puppets for The Little Red Hen use them to act out the story. You can print templates here:

<http://www.haynesmarionettes.com/Images/RedHen.gif>

Little Red Hen Flannel Board



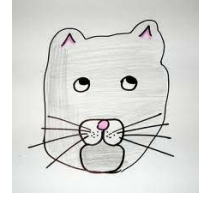
Use the Little Red Hen flannel board included in the kit to retell the story. After you return the kit, you can download a template for your own flannel board here:

http://drjean.org/html/monthly_act/act_2009/02_Feb/pg02.html

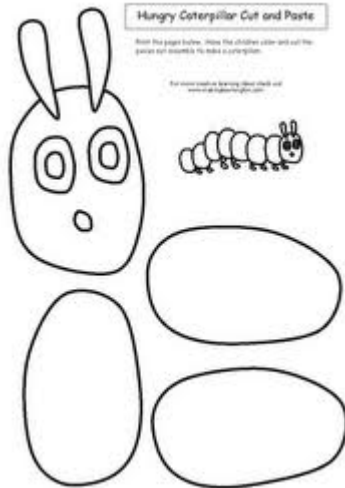
Crafts – Narrative Skills

Drawing the Story

Invite the children to draw a picture about one of the stories you read at storytime.

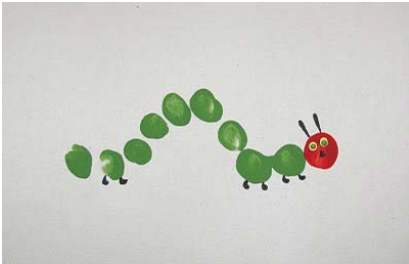


Make a Caterpillar



Have the children make their own caterpillar. See if they can follow instructions by telling them to color the first oval red, the second blue, etc.

Caterpillar Finger Painting



Egg Carton Caterpillar



Caterpillar Hats



Use construction paper to make cute caterpillar hats. Have the children act out the story after they finish their hats.

Handprint Caterpillars



Start out by prepping your work area. Lay down something to protect your work surface. Get your paints ready. Pour about a palm-sized circle of paint on a shallow tray or pie pan. That way you can have multiple colors on one tray. Just be sure to get everything ready before you bring the children in on the process.

Next, using simple and clear directions, instruct your child to open their hand flat (like they are making a "high-five"), palm facing up. Paint only the palm and not the fingers. Be generous with the paint. Making sure to get all the side and crevices. Paint the fingers up to the knuckle, black. Remind them to keep their hand open and flat. Next, holding their wrist in one hand and their finger tips in the other, lay their hand flat on the piece of construction paper. While their hand is still down, press gently on the center of the back of the hand and all the fingertips. Lift the hand straight up. Repeat 4-5 times, the 5th time leave off the black fingers to make the head. Once dry, paint on two antennae and an eye and a smile, if desired.

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Accordion Fold Caterpillars



Cut 2 pieces of construction paper in half. Lengthwise. Glue two pieces together. Have your child decorate the strips, this will be the caterpillar's body. Cut two circles. Decorate a face on one of the circles, if you are using googly eyes, glue them on. Make two strips of construction paper into accordions, folding every other way-with one inch folds. Glue one end of each strip onto face and the other end on to the other circle. Bend pipecleaners and tape them onto the back of the face.

Pom Pom Caterpillars



Cut a leaf shape out of green foam or green construction paper. Draw the leaf design onto it using a black marker. Glue four multi colored pompoms on the center of the leaf. Use a fifth, smaller pompom for the tail. Glue a pair of googly eyes onto the first pompom. Make an antenna out of the black pipe cleaner and glue into place.

Construction Paper Caterpillar



Coffee Filter Butterflies



Flatten the coffee filter and place it on a plate or newspaper, the paint and water will soak through. Set aside on paper towels to dry. Fold the chenille stem in half. Remember, you are only using half of a chenille stem to begin with. Fold the coffee filter accordion style, in about 1/2" pleats. Position the pleated coffee filter into the bent end of the chenille stem. Center the filter at the bend. Twist the chenille stem around the filter to secure it in place. Bend the tips of the chenille stems over about

1/4" to create the antennae. Fan out the butterfly wings. If desired, hang with yarn or fishing line.

Early Literacy Programming Resources

Early Literacy Learning Modules

<http://www.readingrockets.org/firstyear/>

Complete early literacy training modules from Reading Rockets. Take these mini-courses to learn more about early literacy skills.

Early Literacy Handbook

<http://www.earlylit.net/resources/Early%20Literacy%20Storytimes%20Handbook.pdf>

This is a handbook from the Fairfax County Public Library on doing early literacy storytimes.

Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy

<http://www.clel.org/content/storytime-resources>

This page from Colorado contains great resources for doing early literacy storytimes.

Storytime Share

<http://earlylit.net/wordpress/>

This blog shares ideas about how to use early literacy in your storytimes.

