

# discovery time

## Exciting E

Parents and caregivers, extend Discovery Time into your home. Share these fingerplays and activities with young children. **The letter for this theme is E.**

### My Eyes

*(Perform actions as indicated)*

My eyes can look left,  
My eyes can look right,  
My eyes can look ahead,  
And see the sights.  
I can close my eyes,  
I can blink, blink, blink,  
I can flutter my eyelids,  
I can give you a wink.

But of all the things my eyes can do,  
The best is when they see a friend like you!

### Ethel's Eggs

Ethel was a hen who laid ten eggs.  
*(Hold up ten fingers)*  
Each chick hatched and had two legs.  
*(Hold up two fingers)*  
They would play and have their fun.  
*(Wiggle all ten fingers)*  
But when Ethel called, they would come.  
*(While wiggling fingers, clasp hands together)*

### Elephant

A circus elephant I went to see.  
*(Hold hand over eyes)*  
He had four legs and was bigger than me.  
*(Point to self)*  
He had two ears, big and round.  
*(Make circle with hands)*  
And one long nose that made a sound.  
*(Hold arm out like trunk and make elephant noise)*

### Eggs for Breakfast

Mix up the eggs with a whisk, whisk, whisk.  
*(Pretend to hold bowl and make whisking motion)*  
Pour them in the pan with a hiss, hiss, hiss.  
*(Make pouring motion)*  
Cook up the eggs with a zum, zum, zum.  
*(Pretend to hold pan and scramble eggs)*  
Eat up the eggs with a yum, yum, yum.  
*(Rub belly)*

### Early in the Morning

Early in the morning at eight o'clock,  
*(Draw the number 8 on palm)*  
You can hear the postman knock.  
*(Knock on palm)*  
Up jumps Ella to open the door,  
*(Jump)*  
One letter, two letters, three letters, four.  
*(Count on fingers)*

### Letter E

E is for escalator, lots of fun to ride,  
E is for egg with a yellow yolk inside.  
  
E is for empty when there is no more,  
E is for exit, see the sign on the door.  
  
E is for elbow, it helps your arm to bend,  
E is for eleven, the number after ten.  
  
E is for elephant, its trunk is very long,  
E is for error, it's when you get it wrong.



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Help your child get ready to read with these simple activities.

- **Talking:** Children learn to understand and use language by listening to conversations around them.
- **Singing:** Singing to your child is very important, and it doesn't matter if you sing in English or another language. Children love being sung to by their parents, and such singing helps to trigger their speech development.
- **Reading:** Read to your child in the language you are most fluent in. Reading aloud helps create the love of reading, regardless of your spoken language.
- **Writing:** Identify the shapes you see and talk about them with your child. Circles and triangles are often parts of letters. Being able to see shapes will help your child recognize letters later.
- **Playing:** Active use of arms and legs encourages development of gross motor skills, which contributes to school readiness and learning.

## family literacy tip

### Approaches to Learning

When your children have happy experiences, they want to repeat them. Starting kindergarten can be seen as an extension of informal library "classes." Children who have had joyful experiences in the public library often approach school with a positive attitude, ready and excited to learn.

Diamant-Cohen, Betsy, and Saroj Nadkarni Ghoting. *The Early Literacy Kit: A Handbook and Tip Cards*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2010. Print.



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