

discovery time

Alphabet

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

A is for Alligator

A is for alligator,
Chomp, chomp, chomp!
(Move arms like an alligator chomping)

B is for bouncing,

Hop, hop, hop!

(Jump in place)

C is for circle,

Turn 'round and 'round.

(Hold arms out at sides and spin)

D is for dizzy,

And we all fall down!

(Sit down on the floor)

Walking to the ABC's

Come on everybody, walk with me.

Walking around to the ABC's.

We'll call out every letter alphabetically,

While we're walking to the ABC's.

A-B-C-D-E-F-G,

H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P,

Q-R-S-T-U-V,

W-X-Y-Z.

Repeat using "tiptoe" in place of "walk," and whisper the letters. Then repeat using "stomp" in place of "walk," and shout the letters.

Backwards Alphabet Song

(Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

A-B-C-D-E-F-G

H-I-J-K

L-M-N-O-P

Q-R-S

T-U-V

W-X

Y and Z.

Now I know my A-B-C's,

Next time sing them backwards with me!

Z-Y-X-W-V-U-T

S-R-Q-P-O-N-M

L-K-J

I-H-G

F-E-D

C-B-A

Now I've sung my backwards A-B-C's,

Next time won't you sing with me?

Where is "M"?

(Tune: "Where is Thumbkin?")

Where is "M"? Where is "M"?

Here I am. Here I am.

Tell us what your sound is.

Tell us what your sound is.

Mmmm. Mmmm.

Repeat with other letters and their sounds.



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

- **Talking:** No matter your child's age, narrate what you're doing, talk in full sentences, and sprinkle your conversations with interesting words.
- **Singing:** Songs help your child develop listening skills and pay attention to the rhythms and rhymes of spoken language. Sing a song from this handout with your child.
- **Reading:** Shared reading helps your child develop a love of reading, an appreciation of books, and will encourage her to learn to read herself. Try the *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* series, or the *We Both Read* series. Both are available at the library.
- **Writing:** Talk to your child about what he draws, ask questions, and respond to what he says. You can also make up a story to go with the drawing.
- **Playing:** Playing make-believe gives your child a chance to act out real-life situations, work through worries and fears, and use her imagination to solve problems. Use props and costumes for imaginative play.

family literacy tip

Print Awareness

Most children become aware of print long before they enter school. They see print all around them, on signs and billboards, in alphabet books and storybooks, and in labels, magazines, and newspapers. Seeing print and observing adults' reactions to print helps children recognize its various forms. The ability to understand how print works does not emerge magically and unaided. This understanding comes about through the active intervention of adults and other children who point out letters, words, and other features of the print that surrounds children. It is when children are read to regularly, when they play with letters and engage in word games, and later, when they receive formal reading instruction, that they begin to understand how the system of print functions.

"Print Awareness: An Introduction." *Reading Rockets*. Texas Education Agency.
www.readingrockets.org/article/print-awareness-introduction. Accessed 20 Sept. 2018.



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