

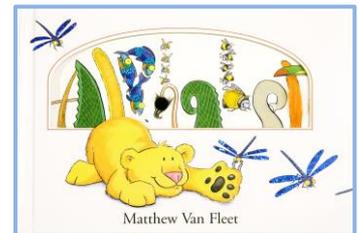
Learning Time – session plans



Alphabet

By Matthew Van Fleet

It's time to go on an ABC Safari. In Matthew Van Fleet's incredible new touch and feel book, over 100 creatures and plants from A to Z hilariously demonstrate action words, synonyms, opposites, and more. Young explorers are challenged to spot four plants or animals that begin with each letter of the alphabet. 23 textures plus foils, flaps, pull tabs, and even a scratch-and-sniff scent add to the interactive surprises on every page.



Key Message for Parents | The first five years matter and last a lifetime

During the first five years of a child's life rapid brain development take place. The long term benefits of caring adults sharing stories, songs and play with young children are many. Some ideas to share with parents are:

- Children that have a strong attachment with a loved one feel happy and confident and therefore confident to play and explore
- Books, songs, rhymes and conversations introduce children to new words in meaningful ways, giving them opportunities to listen and use language and booking the number of words in their vocabulary
- Handling books and singing songs with actions help children develop coordination in their fingers and hands.
- Regular exposure to books and stories helps children develop the necessary emergent literacy skills they will need when they start school.

Learning Outcomes | Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

As facilitators, we can help young children become confident learners during Story Time by:

- Providing play activities which foster curiosity and engagement
- Recognizing and valuing children's involvement in learning
- Providing young children with resources that offer challenge, intrigue and surprise
- Support their investigations and share their enjoyment.

Themes within this story

- Alphabet
- Animals
- Interactive books

Find booklists, tip sheets, nursery rhymes and activity and learning time sheets @

thelittlebigbookclub.com.au     



Welcome

Ask carers to write nametags for themselves and their children.

Welcome everyone, introduce yourself, remind adults to turn their mobile phones off and that there will be time for adults to chat after the story and songs.

Welcome Song (or your preferred song)

Have the words available as a handout or written on a board or butcher's paper for the adults to read and join in.

Good Morning

Good morning to you

Good morning to you

Good morning everybody

and welcome to you!



Song

ABC Song

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 ABC's

Next time won't you sing with me?

The following YouTube video has an introductory song (from 22 seconds to 55 seconds) that is quick, catchy and a bit of fun if you have an interactive board.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UR-l3QI2nESong+Lyrics/actions





Before Reading

Ask children 'I wonder what your name starts with?'

Choose a child / children to say their name/s out loud and talk about the beginning letter/s. You could write name/s out on a large piece of paper or whiteboard. If you have some large alphabet letters, the children may like to find and hold the letter that is at the beginning of their name.

You could also have a range of alphabet books that children could look at with their parents or carers to find their favourite letter. This activity needs time, so remember that the child's engagement in the experience is what is important. Be patient and have time for exploring and chatting about the letters (it may also be a noisy activity – this is okay!).

Settle the group with a song, chant or bell. Introduce your book, 'Now we are going to have a look at a new book that has lots of creatures and plants in it. It's also about the alphabet.' You may find the letter that your name starts within this book! Let's find out together.

During Reading

This book has so much opportunity in it for discussion about many topics other than the alphabet. It may be a book that you bring out over several Story Time sessions. There are over 100 creatures and plants from A – Z that demonstrate action words, synonyms, opposites and more. There are different textures, plus foils, flaps, pull tabs and even a scratch-and-sniff scent. There are surprise interactions on every page.

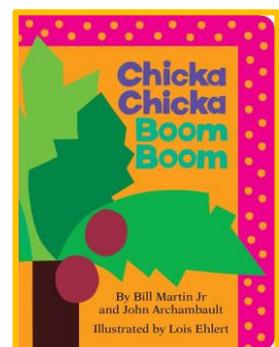
Invite your group to spot 4 animals or plants that begin with each letter of the alphabet. In the back of the book is a 'safari sightings' page – you could enlarge it on the photocopier and have it pinned up so that children could match the items to be found as you read through the book together.

After Reading

Because Alphabet is likely to have been a very interactive process involving lots of movement and noisy discussions, you may not read this book from start to finish. Toddlers have much shorter attention spans and will benefit from being able to participate in many short experiences. Include lots of songs into your session if you have restless children. Get up, and wiggle!

If your group is wanting more, another story that would complement this title is **Chicka Chicka Boom! Boom!** by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault.

A told B and B told C, I'll meet you at the top of the coconut tree. In this lively alphabet rhyme, all the letters of the alphabet race each other up the coconut tree. Will there be enough room? Oh, no - Chicka Chicka Boom! Boom! In a rhythmic alphabet chant, all the letters race one another up the coconut tree.





Activity Time

Make a Sensory Poster

What you will need

- A3 cardboard
- Scissors, glue
- A selection of materials and resources for example: glitter, feathers, scratch-and-sniff stickers, corrugated cardboard, sandpaper, buttons, and string in containers
- A selection of different types of dress materials cut up in a variety of shapes (for example velvet, chiffon and wool)
- Crayons or textas



What to do

1. Each child can choose a piece of cardboard with their carer and then choose some resources to make their own sensory poster. Drawings could be added to the poster and things glued on to the drawings.
2. Some blindfolds could be added to the tables so that carers and children can put them on when they've finished the poster, trying to identify the materials used. An extension of this could be sharing at the end of the session and using different children's posters to discuss how things feel.

Extension ideas:

Making Gloop

This is a great activity just using fingers on a flat surface. Plastic trays are useful. Gloop is easy to clean and when dry will brush off clothing as a dry powder. However having some smocks for children to put on and making it outside means the clean-up is easy with a broom or hose if necessary.

What you need:

- 1 cup of cold water
- 2 cups of corn flour
- Food colouring – optional
- Container to store finished gloop
- Spoons, plastic cups to experiment and play with.

What to do:

1. Slowly add one cup of cold water to two cups of cornflour in a large bowl.
2. Stir until the water is absorbed by the cornflour.
3. Add colour if you like. Put the gloop in ice-cream or large containers with spoons, cups and other utensils.

STEM Focus

Asking questions and seeking answers are what scientists do and young children are all natural scientists. Predicting and guessing what might happen when the cornflour is mixed with the water or whether they'll be able to guess the correct material while wearing a blindfold are both mathematical and scientific skills. Observation abilities are also necessary and the book Alphabet requires very skilful reflections by children.



Goodbye

Conclude the session with some suggestions of books that parents might want to share with their children. The Little Big Book Club suggests the following books to support learning in this area. If your library has copies, make them available for families to borrow or include them in your story time session.

Activity Time for this book is available to download for FREE from our website. This is a great resource to share with families, you are welcome to print and distribute as necessary.

For more stories to share, we recommend the following titles:

- **Animalia** by Graeme Base
- **A is for Australia** by Eleanor Kerr and Judith Rossell
- **Australian Animals ABC** by Bambi Smyth
- **Grug ABC** by Ted Prior

Goodbye Song

Depending on the size of your group, you may wish to insert each child's name in the place of 'you' as it develops a more personal relationship between yourself, the child and the family.

Sung to the tune of (Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush) or your preferred choice.

Goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye (use a waving action) Say goodbye, say goodbye

This is the way we say goodbye

To all our library friends (or) (to our friend.....)!