

THE ALPHABET TREE

SKILLS ADDRESSED

- Recognition of Uppercase and Lowercase Letters
- Letter-Sound Recognition
- Alphabetizing

MATERIALS

- Overlay Sheet #1
- Dry Erase Pen

PURPOSE

The purpose of this activity is to introduce and later reinforce the visual recognition of uppercase and lowercase letters.

LITERATURE LINKS

- *The Alphabet Tree*
by Leo Lionni
Knopf, 1990
- *Chicka Chicka, Boom Boom*
by Bill Martin, Jr.
Simon & Schuster, 1989

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Place the **Alphabet Tree** overlay on the overhead and point to each of the squares. Then say, “What do you suppose we should put in these boxes?”
- 2 Beginning with the first box, ask students to name the first letter of the alphabet. Once the letter has been named, write it in the box. Note: You should begin this lesson with uppercase letters and move to using lowercase letters at a later date once students have mastery for recognizing uppercase letters.
- 3 Continue pointing to the squares and asking students to name the next letter. Once you have three or four letters on the overlay, go back to the beginning and ask students to name the letters. Continue to add letters and review until the tree is complete.
- 4 Once the tree is complete, you can point to letters randomly and ask students to name the letter. For further extension, have students name the sound the letter makes and a word that starts with that letter.

COOKS IN THE CLASSROOM!

Share Bill Martin’s classic book *Chicka Chicka, Boom Boom*, encouraging students to join in the fun by calling out the letters and lively refrain. Students can make alphabet trees by spreading peanut butter on celery stalks that have nice bushy leaves on top. Students then add alphabets cereal and malted milk balls. Learning the alphabet has never been so fun or so tasty!

TO EXTEND THE LESSON

- Erase some of the letters on the overlay, particularly those letters you’ve recently focused on. Ask students to tell you the names of the missing letters.
- Invite students to come up and fill in the missing letters on the overlay.
- Use the overlay and overhead in a free-time center and instruct students to fill in the squares using uppercase or lowercase letters.

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