

## Week one: abc's

### Song

#### Alphabet Song

**Movement:** Form a circle and have each person sing out a letter from the Alphabet song (in order) ending in "Z".

### snacks

#### ABC Cinnamon Breadsticks

Ingredients: **Dough** (already made from the store), **butter, sugar and cinnamon**

Directions: Roll out dough in rolls and then cut and shape into letters. Bake, following dough baking directions on package. Brush on butter and sprinkle on cinnamon and sugar.

#### Letter Sandwiches

Ingredients: **Alphabet cereal, bread, peanut butter**

Directions: Spread peanut butter on a piece of bread or toast and help pick out letters from the cereal to spell the childrens' names.

#### additional snack ideas:

Apple juice or cider, Applesauce, APPLE JACKS™ served in little cups, Bananas, Banana Bread, Cheerios™

### stories

**A to Z**, by Sandra Boynton

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom**, by Martin, Bill Jr., & John Archambault

**Dr. Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book**, by Dr. Seuss

**I Spy Little Letters**, by Jean Marzollo

**Maisy's ABC**, by Lucy Cousins

### Playgroup Discussion

#### Communication:

- Baby Sounds, Cooing etc. – *Gesturing*
- Teaching Sign Language – *Baby's first words*
- Learning a Foreign Language

### Lessons For Toddlers

**Giving:** Have children bring an item (apple, for example) to give to someone in the playgroup. Ask them how it makes them feel to give. Then, praise them for being generous.

## Toy Time

### **ABC Blocks (6+ months)**

Materials: **ABC Blocks (wood, plastic, or cloth).**

Description: Have everyone bring these from home to share with others. There are several fun blocks out there. Let the children play, stack, sort, and help identify them as they are playing.

## Games

### **Flash Cards (18+ months)**

Materials: **Paper and crayons.**

Description: Each caregiver or child draws a picture and uses one word for a description. Emphasize the first letter (ex: "B" for Baby). Once the pictures are done, each child shares it with the group.

Younger children may use pre-printed ABC's Flash Cards.

### **Name Bingo (2+ years)**

Materials: **Paper and crayons.**

Description: Write the first three or four letters of each child's name on a piece of paper. Write out the alphabet on a different piece of paper, cut them out and stick them in a bowl. Let the children pick out a letter and call it out. (Replace the letters in the bowl as some names will use the same letters). When a letter in the child's name is called out, have them cross it out with a crayon. The first one to cross out all of the letter wins! Take turns having each child call out the letter so everyone gets a chance to be the Bingo announcer.

## abc's theme activities

## Arts & Crafts

### **Clay Letters (3+ years)**

Materials: **Clay, rolling pin, cutting utensil, tempera paint, paint brush.** Description: Mold the letter of the child's first name. Let the clay dry and then paint.

### **ABC Box (3+ years)**

Materials: **Magazines, picture books, sticker books, scissors, glue and a shoebox.**

Description: Have your child look through the publications for an item that begins with the letter "A". Cut it out and glue it onto the box. Next, look for a word that starts with "B", and so on (continuing through the alphabet). This is a fun craft and also makes a cool toy box. You can get practice the ABC's while doing this project and can review the pictures over and over making it fun to search for the pictures again and again.

## outing

Meet at an apple orchard. While at the apple orchard describe the difference in the apples such as big and small, ripe and not ripe. Have each child pick out apples to take home to eat or cook in one of your favorite apple recipes!