



Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

unit by Kristina Johnson

LANGUAGE ARTS

Letter Recognition

1. As you read the story, have your child point to each letter on the page as it is mentioned.
2. Have your child find the letters of his/her name on the inside front cover.
3. Cut out a trunk and palm leaves from construction paper. Tape the tree to the fridge. Add letter magnets. Have your child add the letters as they are mentioned in the story.
4. Paint your child's palm green and the underside of her arm brown. Make palm tree prints! Add stamped letters (or sticker letters . . . or pasta letters).

Rhyme

1. Note the rhyming rhythm of the story. For your student who understands what rhyme is, try paraphrasing the story without the rhyming. Does your child enjoy it this way? Which way does he like it the best?
2. Read the book and stop just before a rhyming word. Can your child guess what word comes next? For example "Chicka chicka boom boom! Look there's a full ____" or "J and K are about to cry. L is knotted like a ____".

MATH

Counting

Count the letters on the inside cover (there are both upper and lower case letters, so there are 52)

Colors and Counting

Choose a page of the book and count how many red, orange, pink, green, blue,

and yellow letters there are. Have your child color a bar graph. Are there more green than blue? Which color has the most letters? Which has the least?

Patterns

Have your child follow a pattern with cut out letters. A, B, C, A, B, (what comes next?) You might also consider cutting the letters out of various colors. Red A, Blue A, Red B, (What comes next?)

Measurement: Weight

Use magnetic letters on a balance. What happens if the same amount of letters is placed on each side? How many can the child place on one side before it tips?

COOKING

Coconut

Try adding coconut to your favorite granola recipe or sprinkling it on oatmeal, cold cereal or fruit salad. You could also look for some simple coconut recipes to prepare with your student.

ABC kabobs

Slice apples, bananas, carambola (star fruit) into bite size pieces. Let your child thread them onto skewers. It is fun to put a star fruit slice on the end to create a “magic” wand.

Fruit Smoothies

Let your child choose one or 2 tropical fruits. Add chunks (equal to 1-2 cups) to blender with one can of mandarin oranges (with juice) and one banana. Blend. Add ½ cup or more of milk to desired consistency. Note: freezing the banana ahead of time adds to the texture.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Family Tree

Discuss with your child extended family roles such as aunts and uncles and cousins. Make a family tree with the child’s grandparents at the top.

SCIENCE

Day and Night

Discuss the rotation of the earth and the concept of day/night. An easy way to do this is to place a paper doll shape on the globe. Shine a flashlight (sun) onto the globe where the figure is. Slowly rotate the globe and notice that the figure slowly moves out of the sunshine (into the night).

Coconut Trees and Tropical Climates

Have your child look at the tree in the book. Does this look like the trees in your yard? Coconut Palm Trees grow in tropical climates. Tropical climates are categorized by high temperatures and large amounts of precipitation year round. Discuss with your child differences and similarities between this type of climate and your own. Use a calendar to note how many sunny and rainy days you have over the next month or two. You might also wish to set up a rain gauge in your own yard.

Fruits

After your trip to the local grocery store (see Life Skills), let your child smell and touch the various fruits that you have chosen. What is the texture? Is it smooth or rough? Can your child find the stem end? What is the shape? Let your child help you to wash the fruit. Then, wash his/her own hands. Cut each one open (for information on how to open a fresh coconut, see below) and examine the flesh and seeds. Is there juice? Is the flesh of the fruit a different color than the skin or shell? Does it smell different after you have opened it? You may wish to save some of the various seeds and let them dry. You can plant them to see which (if any) will sprout.

Note: To open a coconut, puncture each of the eyes with a skewer or nail. Then allow the coconut to drain. Put the coconut into a large Ziploc bag. Place on a hard surface (the driveway works well) and whack it with a hammer.

LIFE SKILLS

Grocery Store Field Trip

Bananas, citrus fruits, and pineapple are tropical fruits that most young children regularly enjoy. Take a trip to the produce section of a local grocery store to explore other tropical fruits that are widely available at most grocery stores now.

Select several new fruits to try. Let your child touch and smell the various choices. Some choices to consider include papaya, guava, mango, fresh pineapple, kiwi, star fruit (carambola), avocado, pomegranate, plantains, and be sure to also get a whole coconut! Take time to explain to your child how you choose each fruit, or ask the produce manager to assist you. You may want to call ahead to arrange this.

First Aid

All the letters crashed out of the tree and had some cuts and scrapes. Discuss how to treat a skinned knee or a stubbed toe.

ART

Art Appreciation

Notice the bright colors that the illustrator chose. Point out to your child the polka dot border. Why does he/she think the artist chose to do that? How many shades of green did the artist use? Is each leaf the same shape? If you have discussed personification, ask your child to look at the pictures to find examples of ways that the artist added human characteristics to the letters.

Collage

Lois Ehlert is known for her collage art. Give your child many brightly colored paper and scissors and let them create a collage. They may wish to create a coconut tree or perhaps their house or something else of their choosing.

Painting

Get banana leaves from the grocery store. Let your child place them on top of construction paper (dark colors work best). Leave in the sun for several hours. When you remove the leaves, you are left with the design your child created. You can also get a similar effect by taping construction paper leaves to the construction paper. Have your child paint over the top of the leaves. When dry, remove the leaves.

ABC Coconut Tree Pictures

Use the banana leaves to make prints (or cut sponges into leaf shapes similar to the book). Paint the underside of the leaf with paint and press onto paper. Use bottle tops to make circles (coconuts) and pieces of rectangular sponges (trunks) to complete their pictures. You can then add ABC stickers or use ABC sponges to complete the trees.

JUST FOR FUN

Grass Skirt

Use newspaper to make “grass” skirts for dress up fun. Open several thick sections of a newspaper and tape end to end to fit around your child’s waist. Tape a length of twine or yard to each end. Cut strips up from the bottom to within 2 inches of the top. Wrap around your child and tie at their waist. Play some hula music and enjoy dancing together.

Paper Towel Tube Trees

Paint paper towel tube brown. Cut leaves from construction paper and glue/tape to the top. Add coconuts (brown pom poms or circles of construction paper) to the leaves. You may wish to also add ABC stickers to the trunk and leaves.

Library List

Chicka Chicka 1,2, 3 by Bill Martin Jr.

other alphabet books-

Dr. Seuss' ABC

On Market Street by Arnold Lobel

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert

Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson

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