

**Try these fun, at-home activities to support your 3- through 5-year-old's literacy development!**

## Mystery Sound Box

**Phonological Awareness** refers to the ability to hear and differentiate sounds and structures of words and is an important foundation for reading development. Start out by building listening skills and sound identification with this **Mystery Sound Box** activity.

### MATERIALS:

For this activity, you will need an empty box and several household items. For example, paper, an old calculator, a box of rice.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Name each of the items to your child and make its sound, such as tapping on the keys of the calculator.
2. Place the items behind the box.
3. Make the sound of one of the items and have your child guess which object made that sound. You can extend this activity in many ways!
4. *Extend:* Try using toy animals and making their sounds. Can your child guess which toy animal is hiding behind the box?

## Alphabet KABOOM

Learning the alphabet is a foundational piece of reading and writing development. Play **Alphabet KABOOM** to reinforce letter identification.

### MATERIALS:

You will need popsicle sticks, a fine tip marker, and a cup. To prepare, write one letter of the alphabet on each stick for a total of 26 sticks. Then write the word "KABOOM" on 6 sticks. Put all the sticks in the cup with the letters facing down so you cannot see them.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Before you play, determine the number of minutes you will play for or an amount of turns that each player will take.
2. Each player takes a turn pulling out a stick and saying the letter name on the stick. If a player draws a "KABOOM" stick, they must place all their sticks back in the cup.
3. The winner is the player with the most sticks when time runs out or the set number of turns are complete.
4. *Extend:* You can extend this activity by having your child say the letter name and the sound of the letter.

## Homemade Book

**Concepts About Print** includes understanding that text carries meaning, printed text is read from left to right, words are separated by spaces, awareness of words and letters, and more. A great way to instill concepts about print is by **making a book together**.

### MATERIALS:

You will need blank pieces of paper, a stapler, and writing devices. Start by explaining to your child that you will write a book together.

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Have your child arrange the blank pages and then staple them together to create a book. Make a cover together by asking questions like “What should the title be?” and “Who is the author?”
2. Have your child tell a story as you write their words on the pages. This will help your child understand that spoken words can become text.
3. As you add pages to the book, ask your child questions such as “Where do I begin writing on this page?” to help develop their understanding that text is written from left to right.
4. Have your child illustrate or add a photo to each page of your book.
5. After writing and illustrating the book, read together and place your finger under each word as you read aloud.
6. *Extend:* You can also try counting how many words are on the page or identifying letters you know in the words you have written.