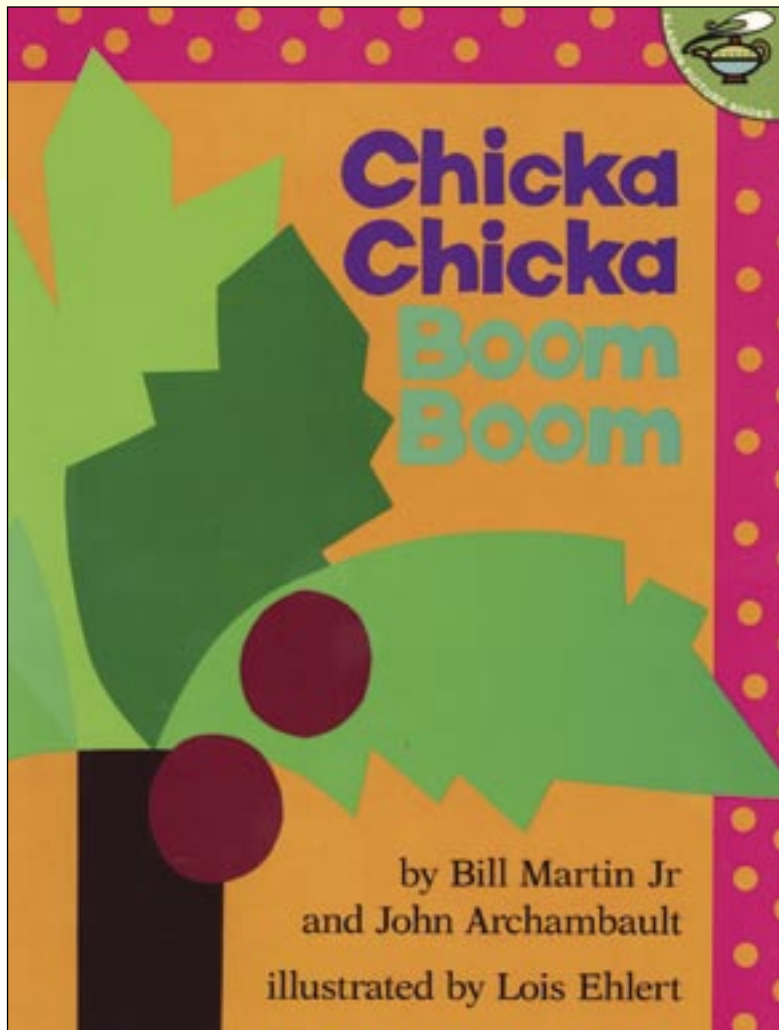


Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

By Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

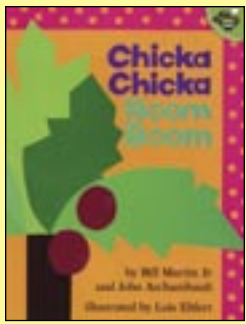
A rollicking alphabet rhyme that tells what happens when the whole alphabet tries to climb a coconut tree.



First Reading

Before you begin reading the story, **set the stage** for enjoying the book with an introduction. Here are some ideas or you could make up your own.

“Look at the cover of the book. Point to the title as you read it. This will help your child connect the words he hears with the ones he sees in print. What do you think this book is about? Have you seen a tree like this before? What do you see growing in the tree? Let’s read this book called *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and find out.”



Read It Again (and Again) and Start a Conversation

Look at the inside cover and have your child look for the letter that starts his name.

Ask your child if they think all of the letters will be able to fit in the top of the tree.

“What do you think will happen as more letters climb to the top of the tree?”

What happened to the letters when they fell down?

Have you ever fallen down? What happened? Did anyone help you?”

As you read, point to each of the letters in the text as you read them.

For instance, as you read “A told B and B told C...” point to each of the colorful letters on the page as you say its name.

Encourage your child to join you on the refrain, “Chicka chicka boom boom, will there be enough room?”

Stop at “Oh, No” and ask your child what they think is going to happen.

Ask your child why they think the letters fell out of the tree.

Ask your child to identify certain letters as you read through the story.

Ask your child which letter they would like to be and why.

At the close of the story, ask your child what they think might happen next.

Play With Language

Game: Rhyming Game

Play a game saying a familiar rhyme or word incorrectly by changing one sound in a word. Have your child tell you if you said it correctly or not. If it was incorrect explain why.

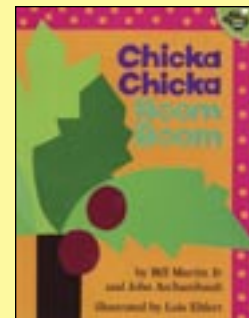
For example, “*Mary had a little bamb*—is that correct?”

No, why? Because I said *b-amb* and I should say *l-amb*.

I said a “B” sound but *lamb* has an “L” sound.”

Next have your child practice saying the sounds and hearing the difference.

From the Public Library Association, Every Child Ready to Read



Game: The Magic Word

Pick a magic word and tell your child to listen for it. Tell them that when they hear the word they can put their coat on, go to lunch, or whatever is next in their daily routine. For example, you might pick the word “boom” from *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Then make up a short story (just a few sentences) and insert the magic word. An example of a story is, once upon a time there was an egg named Humpty Dumpty. One day he had a great fall and went boom.

From Fee, Fie, Phonemic Awareness by Mary Hohmann...et al.

Rhymes

Alphabet Song

(Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

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 A - B - Cs

Next time won't you sing with me?

Willowby, Wallowby Woo

Willowby, Wallowby Woo

An elephant sat on you.

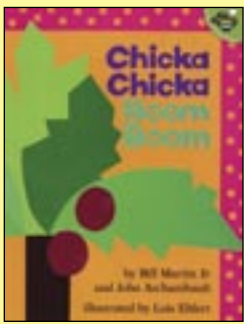
Willowby, Wallowby Wee

An elephant sat on me.

Now make up your own rhymes, such as this:

Willowby, Wallowby wary, an elephant sat on Mary.

Willowby, Wallowby woodle, an elephant sat on a noodle.



Other Activities To Do Together

Point out letters everywhere such as signs, license plates, books, labels, etc.

Cut letters out of a variety of materials such as felt or sandpaper and have your child trace them with his hand.

“Write” letters with a flashlight.

If you have access to a sandbox, your child can make letter shapes in the sand using his finger or some other object such as a pencil or chopstick.

Make letter shapes out of clay.

Let your child make a letter shape out of his body or his hands. Guess the letter.

Encourage your child to play with letter magnets on the refrigerator.

Have your child make his own alphabet book. Children will learn reading and writing skills when putting together their own books.

More Books About the Alphabet

26 Letters and 99 Cents by Tana Hoban

Alphabatics by Suse MacDonald

The Alphabet Tree by Leo Lionni

Dr. Seuss's ABC by Dr. Seuss

Kipper's A to Z by Mick Inkpen

Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth

On Market Street by Anita Lobel

Tomorrow's Alphabet by George Shannon

