

Easy Activities to Use at Home to Support Kindergarten Readiness Help your child practice skills needed in school.

Cognitive Development Rereading stories many times and encouraging your child to retell the story with you will help develop an understanding of story order and improve memory and vocabulary.

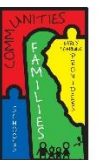
- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Story Retelling Activity (You will need index cards or small pieces of paper.)**
 - Write alphabet letters on cards or pieces of paper.
 - Randomly spread alphabet cards in front of the child.
 - Have the child find and gather pieces as the story is read to him.
 - Have the child arrange the letters in ABC sequence.
 - Have the child point to each letter as he says the letter name.

Alphabet Recognition Children are expected to know most capital letters upon entering kindergarten. Recognition can be supported by matching and tracing letters.

- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Letter Matching Activity (You will need a paper towel roll and blank stickers. Green paper is optional.)**
 - Using a paper towel roll for the trunk, and some green paper for the leaves, construct a coconut tree.
 - Have an adult randomly write all of the upper case letters on the paper towel roll and on the blank stickers.
 - Have the child match the letters by placing a sticker over the corresponding letter on the paper towel roll.
 - For variation and increased difficulty, use lower case letter stickers to match to the upper case letters on the paper towel roll. Stickers can be placed on top of each other for multiple turns.

Math Readiness Math readiness involves various skills such as number and shape recognition and formation, counting sets of objects, and matching the number of a group of objects to the correct numeral.

- **Play Dough Alphabet and Number Activity (You will need paper and playdough. Playdough can be made at home. Learn more here: <https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/playdough/play-doh-recipes>)**
 - Write letters or numbers so they are 3 to 4 inches in size.
 - Have the child roll pieces of play dough between their hands to form a long roll and place the roll of play dough on the letters or numbers written to cover the form.
 - If using numbers, after the number has been formed, have the child pinch off small pieces of play dough and roll the dough into small balls using her thumb, index, and middle fingers. The

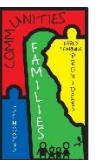


number of small balls should correspond to the numeral formed.
(Child forms the number 5 and makes five small balls.)

- **Play Dough Shape Activity (You will need playdough, paper, and straws or toothpicks.)**
 - Draw several shapes for the child to use as a model. (Triangle, square, rectangle, rhombus, hexagon, pentagon)
 - Provide the child with play dough, straws or toothpicks and scissors.
 - Have the child form small balls with play dough by rolling balls between thumb, index, and middle fingers.
 - Have the child construct shapes using straws or toothpicks for the sides and connecting the sides with the small balls at the corners.
 - The child may use the scissors to cut the straws to form shorter sides when needed.
- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Math and Fine Motor Activity (You will need dice, small objects for counting, large tweezers or kitchen tongs. Dice are often included in board games you may have at home.)**
 - Draw a picture of a coconut tree on a piece of paper.
 - Have the child roll dice. Start with one and then add the second as the child becomes more comfortable with the activity.
 - Use small objects to represent coconuts.
 - Have the child use tweezers or kitchen tongs to count the number of objects to correspond to the number rolled on the dice. (Rolls a four. Counts out four objects to place on the picture of the coconut tree.)
 - *Tweezers or kitchen tongs and small objects can be used for many sorting activities.

Motor Skills This provides fine motor development and one to one correspondence. Tearing paper and cutting with scissors supports fine motor skills.

- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Art Activity (You will need brown and green paper, a drawn picture of a coconut tree, and glue. Scissors are optional. You may use white paper that the child colors green and brown.)**
 - An adult will cut several strips of brown and green paper.
 - An adult will draw or trace the shape of the coconut tree onto a fresh piece of paper.
 - Have the child cut the colored strips into smaller pieces using the scissors. (Pieces can also be torn if scissors are not available.)



- Have the child form the trunk and leaves of the coconut tree by pasting the small pieces of paper onto the tree shape, overlapping the pieces to fit within the shape like a collage.
- Have the child write their name as if the letters are climbing the coconut tree. (This can be written for the child to trace)
- **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Large Movement Activity**
 - Write each letter of the alphabet on a separate piece of paper or on the pavement using sidewalk chalk.
 - If space allows, arrange or write letters in a large circle. Otherwise, arrange letters in rows.
 - As the story is read aloud, have the child walk around the letters.
 - Stop reading at random times throughout the story. When the reading stops, the child says the name of the letter he is standing on chanting, "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, will there be enough room? Here comes _____ (letter name) up the coconut tree." (Musical chairs fashion except you do not remove anything)

Other activities and printables can be found at:
<https://www.weareteachers.com/chicka-chicka-boom-boom-activities/>

