

Taking "The ABC and Phonics Challenge"

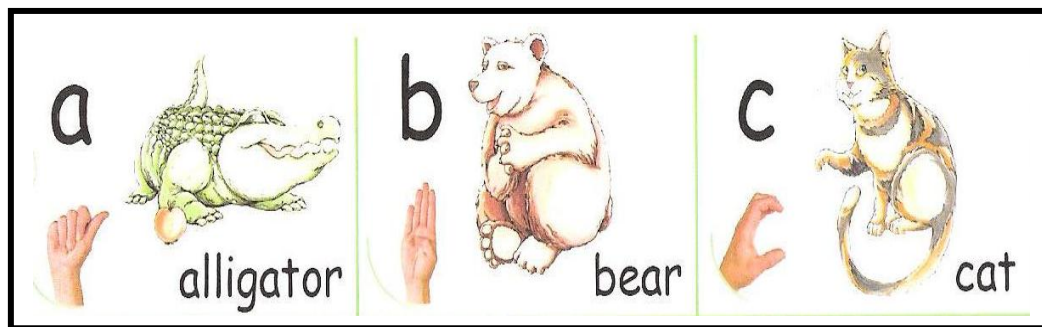
Dear Families,

The kindergarten children are quickly learning *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* Thank you for continuing to review it daily at home. We sing and say the letter names while we fingerspell them, adding the sounds of the letters, and then sign and read the picture clue for each page. For those children who already know letter names and letter sounds, this gives them practice learning American Sign Language (ASL) and reading key phonics words.

Starting next week, children may choose to take "The ABC and Phonics Challenge." If they can read the whole book on their own, with accurate fingerspelling and sign language, we will celebrate their accomplishments; they become an "ABC and Phonics Expert" and can help other children practice. **The children are not in competition with each other.** This is their personal literacy challenge. Learning letters and sounds is an exciting and vitally important skill. It is made more memorable when combined with American Sign Language. That is why we are immersed in multisensory ABC and phonics learning in kindergarten.

Thank you for encouraging your child's delight in learning and performing ABCs, phonics, and ASL. **Your support at home is helping them build a solid and successful foundation for reading and writing.**

With appreciation,



Our Animated Literacy Cheer:

Jeremy can read!
Hip, hip, hooray!
Cha-cha-cha

(Exact Signed English for Silent Applause)*

*Children wave both hands enthusiastically as in signing "wonderful."

Inspiration for this letter comes from Susie Haas and Diane Larson.

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