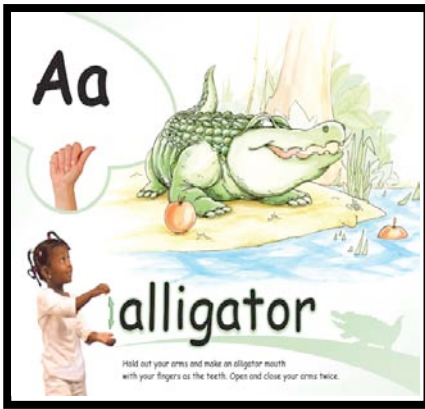


# ***ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read! Vary the Practice and Keep it Joyful...***



- **Send copies of the “Family ABC Phonics Wall Chart” home for shared family learning.** Include the “Parents as Partners” letters. (You are encouraged to **take advantage of our “Parents as Partners” program.**) Invite parents to view the free ASL tutorial videos from [www.sign2me.com](http://www.sign2me.com).
- **Consider having children’s first performance of this song be in November as a part of your “Thankfulness Celebration”** or in December for your winter or Christmas celebration. Practicing for a performance is motivating!

- **Our focus is active, joyful “Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion”.** We want to build these foundational skills in the most efficient, accurate, and successful way possible for diverse learners.

## **Children need a variety of ways to practice so they don’t get bored. The brain needs “elaborative rehearsal.” Consider these strategies:**

- Teach A-G the first week of school, and teach these letters well. Let the children perform for the music teacher, librarian, or school secretary – any appreciative audience will do! Add three or four new letters (in fluent phrasing) at a time. Review these letters throughout the day. Practice while lining up for recess. Practice while walking in the hall. Expect mastery!
- “Please teach A-G to your fourth-grade buddy today.”
- “Review H, I, J, and K with your kindergarten elbow buddy. Pair, review, observe, and teach each other.”
- “Today we’re going to chant our **ABC Phonics** song by doing a clap-slap rhythm on our thighs.” (No Sign Language.) “Keep the steady beat!”
- “Today, see if you can keep the rhythm with rhythm sticks while we sing our **ABC Phonics** song all the way through. 1-2-3. Eyes on me! Ready? Start!”
- “Today we’re going to do our **ABC Phonics** song with a partner as a handjive.” (Demonstrate patty-cake style.)
- Invite half the class to stand and perform A-G while the audience of remaining children sings along and gives them positive feedback. “I liked the way Addie signed each letter...”
- “Today we’re going to do our best practice. Then, we’ll go perform for the principal. He is amazed at our singing and signing!”
- “Instead of singing, let’s *say* our **ABC Phonics** song with a full voice and march to the rhythm... Now, let’s sit down and whisper the song slowly.”

- Practice doing A-G with “no voice at all,” using only Sign Language and mouthing the letters and sounds. This teaches children to internally *hear* and *feel* the rhythm of the language.

## Elaborative Rehearsal Keeps the Enthusiasm High



- “Let’s say our *ABC Phonics* song **softly and tiptoe** around the room. Remember to bring the hand to the mouth while you make each letter sound.”
- “Sing A-G in slow motion... Now, let’s see if we can sing at a rapid pace!”
- “We’ll practice our *ABC Phonics* song silently as we go down the hall. Hear the language in your inner ear and mouth the sound while signing – but no sound will come out. Watch me!” (Teacher walks backwards.)
- “Who did you sing, sign, and read your *ABC Phonics* song to last night? Remember, if your family is not available to listen, you can read and perform it for your cat or teddy bear or goldfish. They will love to listen to you!”
- Invite last year’s kindergartners to come and partner with your kindergartners and sing and sign facing the new learners.
- Give extra help to the slower learners and playfully reinforce the skill one-on-one when you are dialoguing with them. *B “b” bear and B “b” Brian!*”
- Bring in a signing bear and invite the children to sign with him...and later make him available in the *ABC Phonics* Literacy Center.
- “This time, I’m going to try and trick you. Watch my hand signs and see if I’m doing the right animal.” (do B “b” and sign cat or dog instead of bear). “Aren’t you clever for catching my trick!”
- “Be sure and sing the new letters E-F-G to our class bunny so she learns to read too!”
- Using white boards, ask the children to write the lowercase letter while you say the letter and sound. Start with A through D (lower case)... Repeat this over and over again.



**Our friend Mitzi Shirk had thirty-five kindergartners (which should never happen in a state that values literacy!), but even against the odds, her children still far surpassed state benchmarks for kindergarten. She attributes this to “Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion” and daily “kid writing”.**