

Lesson Plan: Alphabet Adventure - The Letter 'A'

Materials Needed:

- Large piece of paper or cardboard
 - Marker (a dark color)
 - Red paint (non-toxic, washable)
 - An apple, cut in half
 - Paper plate for the paint
 - Play-Doh
 - Picture book featuring the letter 'A' (e.g., *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle for the 'apple', or any alphabet book)
 - (Optional) A small tray with sand, salt, or uncooked rice
 - (Optional) Blocks that can be used to build a letter 'A'
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Subject

Early Literacy: Alphabet Introduction

Grade Level

Toddler / Preschool (Age 2)

Time Allotment

20-25 minutes (broken into short, 5-7 minute activities)

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, student C will be able to:

- Actively participate in one or more hands-on activities related to the letter 'A'.
- Visually identify the letter 'A' when pointed out.
- Attempt to make the "/a/" sound (as in apple) with verbal prompting.

Lesson Activities & Procedure

1. Warm-Up: The Alphabet Song (3 minutes)

- **Goal:** To introduce the alphabet in a fun, familiar way and pique C's interest.
 - **Instructions:**
 1. Sit with C in a comfortable spot.
 2. Sing the "ABC Song" together with enthusiasm. Use hand gestures or clap along to the music.
 3. After the song, say, "That was so much fun! Today, we are going to go on an adventure with the very first letter of the alphabet. The letter A!"
 4. Show C a large, clearly written letter 'A' on a piece of paper. Point to it and say, "'A'! This is the letter A."
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2. Main Activity 1: Apple Stamping (7-10 minutes)

- **Goal:** To create a tangible, sensory connection between the letter 'A', its sound, and a familiar object.
- **Instructions:**
 1. Lay out a large piece of paper. In the middle, draw a large uppercase 'A'.
 2. Pour a small amount of red paint onto the paper plate.
 3. Show C the apple half. "Look, C! This is an **a-a-apple**. Apple starts with the letter A!"
 4. Demonstrate how to dip the apple half into the paint and stamp it onto the paper. Make an "A" sound each time you stamp. "A... A... Apple!"
 5. Guide C's hand to help them make their own apple stamps on and around the big letter 'A' you drew.
 6. Continue to repeat the letter name and sound throughout the activity: "Great stamping! You made an 'A' with an apple!"

3. Main Activity 2: Play-Doh Letter Building (5-7 minutes)

- **Goal:** To engage C's fine motor skills and tactile senses to understand the shape of the letter 'A'.
- **Instructions:**
 1. Take out the Play-Doh. Say, "Now let's build the letter A!"
 2. Help C roll three pieces of Play-Doh into "snakes."
 3. Using the letter 'A' on the stamping art as a guide, show C how to arrange the three snakes to form the letter A (two long ones for the sides, one short one for the middle).
 4. You can do this hand-over-hand. As you build it, describe the shapes. "We need one long line down, another long line down, and a little line across. We made an 'A'!"
 5. Let C squish the Play-Doh and try again if they are interested.

4. Cool-Down & Closure: Story Time (5 minutes)

- **Goal:** To reinforce the letter in a calm, comforting context and end the lesson on a positive note.
- **Instructions:**
 1. Snuggle up with C and the chosen picture book.
 2. Say, "Let's read a story and look for our special letter, the letter A!"
 3. As you read, point out the letter 'A' whenever you see it on the page (in big or small print). You can also emphasize words that start with 'A' that appear in the story.
 4. After the story, give C lots of praise! "You did such an amazing job on your Alphabet Adventure today! We learned all about the awesome letter 'A'!"

Differentiation and Adaptations

- **For more support:** Focus primarily on the sensory experience. Guide C's hand for all activities (hand-over-hand stamping and Play-Doh building). The goal is positive exposure, not perfect execution. If C loses interest in one activity, move on to the next or end the lesson early.
- **For an extension/challenge:** After the lesson, go on an "A Hunt" around the house. Look for the letter 'A' on toy boxes, food containers, or book covers. You can also name other things that start with 'A' (airplane, alligator, ant).

Assessment (Informal Observation)

Observe C during the lesson to see if they are meeting the objectives. Look for:

- **Engagement:** Is C watching and participating? Are they smiling or showing curiosity?
- **Recognition:** Does C look at or point to the letter 'A' when you point to it?
- **Verbalization:** Does C attempt to mimic the "/a/" sound or say "A" after you? (Any attempt, even a coo or babble in response, is a success!)