

# Talking About Stories

## Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

You and your child can have a lot of fun with this lively ABC book. Follow the letters of the alphabet as they climb their way to the top of the coconut tree—and back down again!

There are many activities you can do as you read aloud with your child, and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* is a book your child will love to listen to over and over again. Don't try to do all the activities suggested here the first time you read the book. If your child enjoys this book, you'll have many opportunities to extend the learning experience to practice important reading skills, like new vocabulary, the different sounds of language and letters, and the ways that print and books work.

So, let's get started!

Look at the drawing on the cover of the book—what kind of tree do you think that is? Have you or your child ever seen a coconut, or tasted one? What do coconuts taste like? Can you think of any other fruit that grows on trees? As you open the book, the first thing you come to is a bright, colorful alphabet. Point out the letters in your child's name. See how there are upper and lower case letters? Encourage your child to say the title of the book with you—*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom!*

Try reading all the way through the book once, without stopping or asking questions. Use a sing-song voice, to emphasize the rhythm of the story as you read. You and your child might feel the urge to get up and dance or tap your toes!

Have fun with the words you come across as you read out loud—both the real words and the nonsense words. When you come to a silly phrase like "Flip flop flee," ask your child to make up rhyming words, like "Skip skop skee." Some real words you and your child can talk about as you read this book together are *coconut, tag-along, tangled, knotted, looped* and *stooped*.

After you've read the story together, cut out paper squares and write the lower-case letters on them. Draw a tree and let your child move the letters up and down the tree as you tell the story again. Don't worry if he picks up the wrong letters at first. You can also make a set of capital or upper-case letters, and help your child match the big letter with its lower-case version.

If your child likes this book, look for these other books at your library: *Chicka Chicka 1, 2, 3*; *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See*; and *Goodnight, Moon*.



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