

Talking About Stories

Alphabet Under Construction

by Denise Fleming

This is a fun, colorful, active alphabet book. Mouse is hard at work, building each letter of the alphabet—using different tools to work his way through from A to Z. With lots of creativity, *Alphabet Under Construction* illustrates the ABCs in a whole new way.

There are many activities you can do before, during and after reading this book with your child. Don't try to do all the activities described here the first time you read the book together. But don't worry! Young children love to look through and listen to books over and over again. You'll have many opportunities to extend learning when you share this book with your child.

So, let's get started!

Before reading, look for different tools around your home that help you get jobs done, such as a hammer, screwdriver, ruler or measuring tape. Talk about how these tools are used to do different things. Remember, pencils and pens are tools too! What tools does your child use when she draws or paints? You might want to have some of these tools handy, too, in case your child wants to create her own pictures.

As you read the book, trace your finger along the big capital letter on each page. Invite your child to do the same and say the name of the letter. Point out both the upper-case or capital letters and the lower-case letters on each page. Ask your child to repeat the phrases on each page after you say them—*buttons the B, carves the C*, and so on.

There are many interesting action words or verbs in this book, like *carves, dyes, erases, prunes, quilts* and *welds*. Talk about these words as you come to them. Ask your child to look at the pictures in the book for clues about what these words mean.

After you've read the book, carefully cut out some straight strips of paper. How many letters can you create using these straight lines? Cut out some circles and make letters using combinations of circles, half-circles and straight lines. When you and your child take a drive or walk through your community, look for places that are "under construction."

If your child likes *Alphabet Under Construction*, you might look for some other books by Denise Fleming, like *Beetle Bop*; *In the Small, Small Pond*; and *The Cow Who Clucked*.



This information was produced by the National Center for Family Literacy for use on www.thinkfinity.org, a powerful educational platform supported by the Verizon Foundation. This information is may be reproduced for noncommercial purposes without permission.

Copyright © 2007 by the National Center for Family Literacy. Produced by the National Center for Family Literacy, 325 West Main Street, Suite 300, Louisville, KY, 40202-4237.

