

July 2021

Summer Alphabet Fun!

Want a different kind of fun this summer? Work your way through the alphabet with the fun activities below! You don't even have to go in order - have your child choose a letter from a baggie, start with the letters in their name, or do your favorite activities first!

Our June reading skill focus is to put some excitement into learning the alphabet and maybe even trying new things. Example: For the letter Q, you can make a fort from quilts and eat quesadillas in it!

To make the fun last beyond summer, take a picture with each letter activity you do and:

- Make an alphabet book your child can look at again and again.
- Make photo letter flash cards to play matching games or practice letter identification.

Meet Vev Ealy: Sharing the Value of Ferst Throughout the School District



What began as a request to the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) has evolved into an ongoing relationship with Vev Ealy, one of our newer Community Action Team (CAT) members.

Last fall, Warren Steele, founder of the local Ferst chapter, contacted MCSD Superintendent Dr. David Lewis for assistance in registering younger brothers and sisters of students enrolled in Title I schools. In-person Ferst Readers registration events could not be held in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, and...

United Way



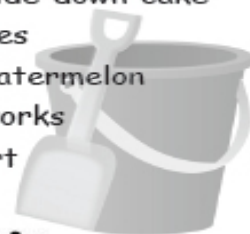
Community Partner

(Continued on back page)

Summer Alphabet Activities

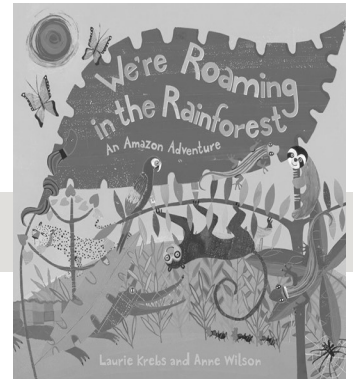
A paper airplanes, ants, apple
B baseball, birds, bananas
C chalk, camp, cupcakes
D dinosaur dig, ducks, donuts
E electricity, eskimo pies
F frogs, flip-flops, fruit salad
G gratitude, goldfish
H hopscotch, hike, hot dogs
I imagination, ice, ice cream
J jump rope, jog, J-ELLO
K kitchen, knead dough, kiwi
L send a letter, lemonade stand
M make-a-monster, music, muffins

N nature scavenger hunt, nests
O observe outdoors, orange day, olives
P make popsicles, picnic at the park
Q (earth)quakes, quilts, quesadillas
R ride bikes, races, rice crispy treats
S sew pjs, make stickers, salad
T tea party, teeth, tacos
U unique (trace kid on paper), upside-down-cake
V volcano, visors, vegetables
W water (sprinklers), walk, watermelon
X eXercise, eXplode fireworks
Y yo-yos, yellow day, yogurt
Z ZOO trip!, zucchini



We're Roaming in the Rainforest

Author: Laurie Krebs; Illustrator: Anne Wilson
Our Rainbow Press



R Repeat the Book: Multiple readings boost vocabulary learning.

First Read (events): Look at the cover, read the title and say, *“I am thinking this is a rainforest. What is a rainforest? Let’s read and find out.”* Look at the map in the back of the book and talk about how the many trees provide clean air for us to breathe. As you read and identify the animals, talk about what the animals are doing in the rainforest. Use a kid-friendly definition (see vocabulary section) for words your child might not understand. After reading, ask the first read question in the “Ask Questions” section.

Second Read (emotions): Look at the cover and say, *“I wonder if you would be afraid of any of the rainforest animals or if any of the animals might be afraid of each other. Let’s read and find out.”* Ask the second read question.

Third Read (retell): Look at the cover and say, *“It is your turn to tell me what each of these animals are doing in the rainforest.”* Hand your child the book and encourage your child to name the animals and their actions going page by page in the book. Ask the third read question.

Vocabulary

Use these words throughout the month when you talk with your child.

burrow - to make a hole by digging

scamper - to run or move quickly

crouch - to lower your body by bending your legs

doze - to sleep

swoop - to fly down through the air suddenly

E Engage and Enjoy: Using these activities keeps your child’s interest in the story.

As you read, mimic the sound of each animal’s voice. For example, the snakes hiss, the sloths might speak very slowly and the monkeys very fast. Emphasize the rhyming words and have your child identify these words. For example, “away” rhymes with “day”.

A Ask Questions: After talking about the book, ask questions to promote deeper thinking.

After first read, ask, “Why do you think it is called a rainforest?”

After second read, ask, “What do the children feel about the animals and how do you know?”

After third read, ask, “What is your favorite animal in the book and why?”

D Do More: Use other activities to help your child connect vocabulary to their world outside of the story.

On the next page, there are some additional activities which you can do with your child.

Things to Do

Enjoy some of these activities

Physical activity- Have child demonstrate or act out:

Swoop like a parrot Crouch like a jaguar Snooze like a sloth

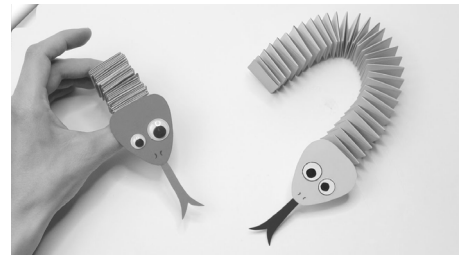
Slither like a snake

Scamper like a lizard

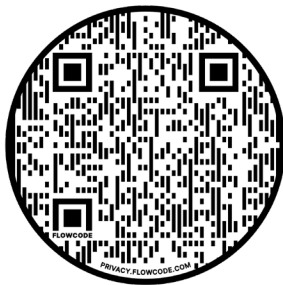
Swim like a dolphin

Chatter like a monkey

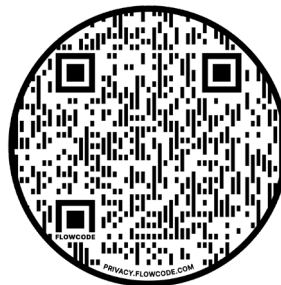
Art activity- Create a rainforest scene using paper (white or multi-colored), scissors, glue/glue dots, markers/crayons. You can make snakes, frogs, geckos, elephants...Use the book as a guide for colors and shapes. Add in grass, plants, and trees. Get creative!



Listening activity- Use the QR codes below to listen to the story being read by Stephanie Garipey **We're Roaming in the Rainforest-** or this catchy **Rainforest Song!**



Story



Song

Ferst Readers has adopted and adapted the READ guide format courtesy of:



Scan here for
ferstreaders.org

Rollins Center
for Language & Literacy
A Program of the Atlanta Speech School

Read Right
From the Start

Read with your child every day.

(Continued from front page)

the number of children being served by Ferst Readers had dipped below 2,900. Administrators in the District Office engaged Vev, who holds a graduate degree in Elementary Education and works in MCSD's Federal Programs for Parent and Family Engagement.

"I received an email telling me about the Ferst committee and that it would be a great collaboration since I work with Parent and Family Engagement," she recalls. "I reached out to Mr. Warren Steele to find out more about Ferst Readers. After meeting with Mr. Steele, I sent the information about Ferst to all the parent liaisons at our Title I schools and asked them to share the information with parents and families with young children. I also told them to share with teachers and staff with young children. I emailed the information to everyone I could think of with young children," she adds.

"As an educator, I believe Ferst is truly valuable because it is laying the groundwork for a strong foundation and love of reading," Vev says. "The love of reading starts when kids are young and take everything in like sponges. During this crucial stage of a young child's life, Ferst is providing opportunities for many families that they may not have."

Vev joined the CAT in January of this year. "She is an excellent ambassador for our program," Warren says.

"I look forward to continuing to get the word out to families about the blessing of Ferst," Vev says. "Ferst has made an amazing difference in the lives of children. Early childhood literacy is important because we have to capture young minds while they are still forming. The earlier we can get our students reading, learning and imagining— the better."



Ferst Readers
P.O. Box 1327
Madison, GA 30650

PLEASE DO NOT BEND

Carrier—leave if no response

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT# 331
MARIETTA, GA

Are you moving? If so, please let us know by calling [888.565.0177](tel:888.565.0177) or email info@ferstreaders.org with your new address. The postal service WILL NOT forward the books even with a forward order on file as they do not forward bulk mail. You must let us know your new address in order to continue receiving the books. We are not responsible for undeliverable or lost books.