



ARRIBA ABAJÓ LEARNING GUIDE



GIVE ME AN A

This song provides a fun way to help children learn the vowels, and long vowel sounds. The Learning Guide Activities give children at the readiness (pre-reading) stage plenty of practice with basic reading behaviors, such as where and how to turn the page and one-to-one matching by pointing to each letter or word while reading. Children also increase their social abilities and learn to negotiate with other children to decide what letter matches a picture by giving their own opinion and arguments.

CONCEPTS

- vowels
- initial sounds
- social skills
- pre-reading skills



SEE THE
VIDEO



STREAM OR
DOWNLOAD
THE SONG

MY BOOK OF VOWELS

Make a book of vowels called "My book of vowels." Fold a legal size page in a "hotdog fold" (paper positioned sideways). Divide and cut **only the top fold** in five equal parts to allow you to flip each section to reveal the bottom part of the sheet. Position the paper in a sideways position and ask the student or child to write with big letters the capital and lowercase of each vowel (one vowel on the front of each flap).

Aa Ee Ii Oo Uu

Underneath each flap ask the children to find or draw an object that starts with that vowel. Repeat with each vowel to complete the book. Ask children to read the book pointing to each capital and lowercase vowel and picture.

Example

Aa apple, Ee elephant, Ii iguana, Oo ostrich, Uu unicorn

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ADAPT

For younger children we recommend you work on only one vowel at a time, making a whole book with only Aa, or only Ee, etc.

Examples

Aa apple, Aa alligator, Aa ant, Aa artwork, Aa arrow
Ee ear, Ee elephant, Ee eraser, Ee egg, Ee elbow

GIVE ME A VOWEL

As a class or family, use your creativity to make up a new version of the song by changing the second line of each verse. If possible try to make it match the melody of the song. Repeat with all five vowels.

Example:

Give me an **A**, give me an **A**.
Let's both eat an apple.

Write the new version on a sheet of big chart paper. Ask children to take turns adding illustrations of each object that starts with the vowels in the new song.

STRATEGY

When you write out text for a young child, make sure you leave plenty of space in between each word. It helps improve word knowledge. Use big, easy to understand letters, not regular handwriting.

Use a big pointer and ask children to point to each word while singing the song. As you introduce or review vowels, use highlighting tape or highlighter to go on a vowel hunt. Children take turns highlighting vowels in the song.

To continue the learning on another day, type the text of the song you created into a document using Word or another software.

STRATEGY

When typing a song or story, choose a simple font that is easy to read, and try to choose a font that uses a "single-story" lowercase A, which young children recognize more easily, rather than a "double-story" lowercase A.

Single-story lowercase A

a

Double-story lowercase A

a

Use large font, and two or three spaces between words. The Print Clearly font is one great option. [Download Print Clearly font](#). If you are using Google Docs, try using the [Extensis Fonts add-on](#) and choosing the Didact Gothic font.

Then, give each child a printout of the new song on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet. Ask children to illustrate and highlight as they did together on the big chart.

ADAPT

For older children, you can choose a **sentence frame** and then challenge the children to come up with their version of the song with words that start with each vowel and make sense with the sentence frame.

One sentence frame you can use is "Let's pretend to be an..."

Example

Give me an A, give me an A
Let's pretend to be an astronaut
Give me an E, give me an E
Let's pretend to be an engineer...

Try these other sentence frames

- Let's go wear an _____
- Let's go color an _____
- Let's all pick an _____
- Let's all travel to _____
- Make up your own!

If possible try to make your new song match the original melody

THE MATCHING GAME

Play a "matching" game. Pair children up in groups of two or three. Ask children to write each capital and lowercase vowel on a different blank index card size paper.

Then give your child, or each group of children, a bag with picture cards.

Children line up all vowel letter cards spaced out next to each other.

Children take turns grabbing a picture card from the bag and saying out loud the name of the picture.

"Octopus"

The same child places the picture under the letter that it starts with.

Repeat procedure until all cards have been placed under a vowel letter.

Come back as a group and read all lists to make sure all picture cards were placed under the matching vowel sound.



STRATEGY

If your child makes a mistake, don't tell her that she did it incorrectly. Instead, pronounce the picture card slowly two or three times pointing to the vowel card it was placed under, to see if your child is able to self-correct with this prompting.

If your child is still unsure, assist again saying, "Does **a**pple start like **o**strich, **o**ctopus, **o**val, or **o**range?"

Give several prompts before you say, "**A**pple does not start like **o**strich. It has the same sound as **a**lligator. **A**pple starts with **Aa**."

BOOKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom/ Chica Chica Bum Bum

Bill Martin, Jr. y John Archambault

Ilustraciones de Lois Ehlert

A rhythmic account of the letters of the alphabet playfully racing up a coconut tree.

Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet Book in Spanish and English

Alma Flor Ada

Ilustraciones de Simón Silva

An alphabet book of poems honoring Cesar Chavez and migrant farm workers.

CREDITS

This Learning Guide was developed in collaboration with master teacher Heidimarie Freund-West and singer-songwriter and teaching artist 123 Andrés. To see all of the Learning Guides and for more information about the guides, their authors and how to use them, please visit www.123andres.com/learning. Special thanks to the following families for their help in developing the guides: Louis and Carlos' family, the Montoya Cabrera family, Maria Kammaraad and her family, Brooke Belville and her family, the Kopacko family, the Carollo family, the Eschelbach family, and the Diaz Evans family. Art and layout by Alcides Urrutia.