Black and White Rabbit’s ABC by Alan Baker — A lovely story about a rabbit who goes to great length to paint a picture for his mom. Ages 3-6.

Oops Pounce Quick Run: An Alphabet Caper by Mike Twohy — Each letter of the alphabet represents an action word in this fast paced story where dog is chasing mouse all around the house! Ages 3-6.

**OTHER FUN ALPHABET BOOKS:**

8, An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper — This book has it all – letters, numbers and counting, science (children learn about many new and unusual animals), and fun! Ages 4-8.

ABC: The Alphabet from the Sky by Benedikt Gross — Children search for the different letters on each page of this book that captures how letters are found all over our world and in unexpected places. Ages 4-8.

Eating the Alphabet by Lois Ehlert — Beautiful illustrations and an introduction to fruits and vegetables from around the world make this classic book one that is fun to share with children in small groups or one on one. Ages 3-6.

F is for Fiesta by Susan Middleton Elya — It is time for a birthday party! English and Spanish words are used to describe the party and help children learn letters. Ages 3-6.

R is for Rocket: An ABC Book by Tad Hills — Rocket and his friends learn about the letters of the alphabet together. This book uses many different examples of words that start with each letter of the alphabet. Ages 4-6.

Walter was Worried by Laura Vaccaro Seeger — Children learn many concepts in this creative alphabet book including new vocabulary words (for emotions especially) and lower/upper case letters which are used to illustrate facial features. Go on a letter hunt! Ages 4-7.

Z is for Moose by Kelly Bingham — in this humorous story, moose is impatient to have his turn in the alphabet and keeps inserting himself where he doesn’t belong! Ages 4-7.

**Letter Exercises**

Think of a different exercise for each letter of the alphabet and introduce one exercise each day, maybe as a start to your day. Show children the letter that the name of each exercise starts with before you exercise! Here are a few examples-

- B — Balance on one foot
- D — Dance around!
- M — Move like your favorite animal
- Z — Walk in a zigzag
**Write a Poem Using the Letters of Children’s Names**

This type of poetry, known as acrostic, encourages word associations and playful nonsense. Your child’s name becomes the “spine” word. Each letter of her/his name is a seed for a new word. Invite children to think of words that begin with each letter — the new words can relate to their name, things they love to do or nothing at all!

- **H**appy when he’s playing
- **E**ats very little!
- **N**ever plays with anything but cars
- **R**eally cute
- **Y**ells instead of talks!!

This is a great opportunity to talk with children not only about the first letter in their name but about each individual letter as well — and to point out that most of the letters in their name are lower case, only the first letter is a capital. If children are not writing yet, you can write down their ideas and have them draw the illustrations for their name poem.

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**BINGO**

There was a farmer, had a dog, And Bingo was his name-o, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, And Bingo was his name-o.

*Here are some BINGO variations* –

There is a fruit that starts with A and apple is it’s name-o! A-P-P-L-E, A-P-P-L-E, A-P-P-L-E, and Apple is it’s name-o!”

There is a food that starts with P and pizza is it’s name-o! P-I-Z-Z-A, P-I-Z-Z-A, P-I-Z-Z-A, AND Pizza is it’s name-o!”

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**Learning Ideas for SEPTEMBER**

**TWO FUN LETTER LEARNING GAMES!**

**LETTER MATCHING**

Give children upper and lowercase versions of each letter and ask them to match the upper case letter with its correct lower case partner. You could use paper letters, laminated letters, magnets, letters made out of playdough, fabric letters – the choices are endless! This is an activity you could do with children in a large circle or individually at tables.

**IS IT A LETTER OR A NUMBER?**

Hold up examples of letters and numbers and ask children whether or not they know if these are letters or numbers. Then ask them if they know what letter/number it is...

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You may register for FREE STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the CALENDAR of the Pierce County Library web site: [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org). The next STARS Class will be Saturday, September 23rd, and is titled: “The Effects of Trauma and Stress on the Developing Brain.”