

Alligators All Around

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by Maurice Sendek (Harper)

Themes: Alphabet/Humor/Music

Level: Pre-K - 1

Length: 2 minutes, animated

Summary

ALLIGATORS ALL AROUND is a funny picture alphabet, sung with lively lyrics by Carole King. The number opens with several alligators dancing around to the Lyric "A, alligators all around". To illustrate the letter B, an alligator pulls balloons out of a paper bag and bursts them with a needle. This visual is accompanied by the lyric, "B, bursting balloons". As the picture alphabet progresses, the alligator continues to pull objects out of the paper bag, or use the bag itself to represent objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Young children will be delighted by the humorous images and lively lyrics.

Before Viewing Activities

Share the book Alligators All Around with children. Then ask: What other things can you think of that the alligator might do for each letter of the alphabet? What was the silliest thing the alligator did? If you were an alligator, do you think the alligator in the story would make a good friend? Why? Why not? If the alligator in the story could have other animal friends, what kinds of animals would they be?

Display an alphabet chart or poster. See how many objects children can name that begin with each letter of the alphabet.

Sing the alphabet song with children. Then provide a sheet of cardboard, on which a letter of the alphabet is written, for each child in the group. Then have children stand in a line and sing the alphabet song again. This time, as each letter is mentioned, have the child who is holding that letter hop out of the line.

After Viewing Activities

Fill a large paper bag with objects with names beginning with different letters of the alphabet. Have children in the class take turns closing their eyes, reaching into the bag, and pulling out an object. As children show the objects to their classmates, see if children in the group can identify the letter the object starts with. Continue the activity until each child in the group has had an opportunity to pull an object out of the bag.

Work with children to make large cardboard letters that they can wear around their necks. Have children choose the letter they would like to wear and then draw pictures of objects that begin with the letter they are wearing. Later, have children stand in front of the class while wearing their letters and share their drawings with their classmates. Have others in the group say the name of the letter each child is wearing, and the names of the objects in the drawings, out loud.

Cut out a large alligator from a sheet of kraft paper. Have children work together to paint the alligator. Then have children paint a large body of water with blue paint for the alligator to swim in. Attach the alligator and the body of water to a bulletin board. Tell children that this alligator finds objects underwater that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Have children paint pictures that begin with each letter of the alphabet on the water and discuss their contributions with their classmates.

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