

ABCmouse.com Supports Research-Based Best Practices in Early Childhood Education

Best practice based on research	Research/Source	How does ABCmouse.com support this practice?	Corresponding activities
Between the ages of 3 and 5 years, children should be moving toward the mastery of print-related skills and linguistic-processing skills.	Center for Early Literacy Learning "Framework for Developing Evidence-Based Early Literacy Learning Practices" http://www.earlyliteracylearning.or g/cellpapers/cellpapers_v1_n1.pdf	Children learn the sequence of the alphabet, how to recognize and identify both uppercase and lowercase letters, and learn the most common sounds for each letter. ABCmouse.com's books and book apps familiarize children with cover and title page elements, page turning, top-to-bottom and left-to-right text sequence, as well as the relationship of text to pictures. Children are provided with ongoing practice and feedback related to print- and linguistic-processing skills through each reading activity.	Books ABC's on the Farm Basics: The Letter a Book Games Alphabet Sounds at the Market Grocery Grabber Market Letter Line Zoo Alphabet Pop and Peek Songs ABC Alphabet Song Puzzles ABC Blocks Uppercase Letters Rhyming Words Jigsaws

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Literacy-related skills develop when children are provided with literacy-rich experiences, a variety of instructional practices, and interest-based activities.	Center for Early Literacy Learning "Framework for Developing Evidence-Based Early Literacy Learning Practices" http://www.earlyliteracylearning.or g/cellpapers/cellpapers v1 n1.pdf	Children are introduced to new vocabulary and exposed to rich language through a variety of interesting activities. These activities include—but are not limited to—fiction and nonfiction books, songs, and the Shopping area. Text accompanies oral language in virtually all cases. ABCmouse.com uses imitation, modeling, as well as explicit and implicit instruction to ensure children's learning style preferences are accommodated. Children have access to many types of learning activities that teach an extensive range of topics in ways that enhance involvement, curiosity, interest, engagement, and personal connections.	Books The Cat and the Rat Games Magic Rainbow Traceables Sports Alphabet Match Zoo Animal Wheel Songs The Four Seasons Sound of Letter A Puzzles How Plants Grow Cutout: Vegetables Rhyming Words Jigsaws Features Several lessons in the Basics area focusing on word families (words that have the same ending sound and spelling, such as ham, jam, and yam).
Having knowledge of and experience with nursery rhymes determines literacy abilities in the future.	Center for Early Literacy Learning "Relationship Between Young Children's Nursery Rhyme Experiences and Knowledge and Phonological and Print-Related Abilities" http://www.earlyliteracylearning.or g/cellreviews/cellreviews v4 n1.pdf	Nursery rhymes are provided in both illustrated book and song formats on ABCmouse.com. Children are given a clear explanation of a rhyme and provided with specific examples from common nursery rhymes.	Songs I'm a Little Teapot Itsy, Bitsy Spider Old King Cole Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star Rock-a-Bye Baby This Old Man Nursery Rhymes Hickory Dickory Dock Little Boy Blue Old King Cole One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

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The first of eight National Education Goals is for all children in the United States to start school ready to learn. School readiness in children includes physical well-being and motor development, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, language development and cognition, as well as general knowledge.	Child Trends Research Brief "School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children" http://www.childtrends.org/wp- content/uploads/2013/03/schoolre adiness.pdf	ABCmouse.com is engaging, personalized, and interactive. These qualities foster curiosity, persistence, and excitement toward school and learning. Children develop fine motor skills through the use of the mouse and touch control of apps. The rich language environment supports speech and language development. Learning activities that involve sorting, counting, and problem solving all support cognitive development. The Shopping area supports cognitive development by supplying a context for learning fundamental math concepts, such as more and less, and providing many opportunities for students to compare items as they make decisions. General knowledge is developed through the large quantity of nonfiction books on various topics as well as through the 18 environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path™.	Activities Dot-to-Dot pages Mouse and Pointer Tutorial Puzzles Blue Rooster Sentence Games Circus Juggling Act Magic Rainbow Traceables Market Shop and Seek Reading Card Match Ultimate Shapes Memory Match Features Book glossary with each word used in a sentence Tickets and Rewards System Step-by-Step Learning Path Environment Voice recording
Emergent literacy skills are a good predictor of children's reading abilities throughout their educational careers. Exposure to literacy activities early in life, at home as well as in early childhood care and education programs, is essential to the development of these skills.	Child Trends Research Brief "School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children" http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/schoolreadiness.pdf	ABCmouse.com interactive activities have learning objectives targeting development of phonological and phonemic awareness, knowledge of sight words, knowledge of word families, phonics-based decoding of CVC words, and development of oral vocabulary.	Books My Family and Me Puzzles Impala Sentence Word Family Jigsaw Games First Letter in Line Fly Swatter Madness Last Letter in Line Swing with the Monkeys Songs The Letter Chants The a-b-c Chant The Letter m Chant Art V Is for Violin Painting Page

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Access to books and printed material and being read to one-on-one or in small groups in early childhood care programs all help to prepare preschoolers to become readers. *** Children who are engaged in meaningful, knowledge-building experiences with print gain the foundational skills for becoming skilled readers and writers.	Child Trends Research Brief "School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children" http://www.childtrends.org/wp- content/uploads/2013/03/schoolre adiness.pdf *** The Albert Shanker Institute "Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers" http://www.shankerinstitute.org/D ownloads/Early%20Childhood%201 2-11-08.pdf	Children, teachers, and caregivers have unlimited access to ABCmouse.com books, which children may read independently or have read to them. These books contain features that support development of concept of print skills, such as a front and back cover, title page, page numbers, highlighting text that tracks with voiceover, illustrations, and the ability to turn pages. Children are exposed to a variety of book genres, including poems, fables, folk tales, other fiction stories, and nonfiction texts. The site is a print-rich environment.	Books A Tasty Alphabet Alphabet in the Park Big Pig and Little Pig From Cow to Carton Fun Poems for Kids Stanley the Snail Leaves a Trail The Tortoise and the Hare
Oral language is the primary means that children gain knowledge about the world, and it is the vital foundation for children's literacy development. Oral language is the foundation for children's learning, and the pre-kindergarten years are a crucial time for language development.	The Albert Shanker Institute "Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers" http://www.shankerinstitute.org/Downloads/Early%20Childhood%2012-11-08.pdf	Children are introduced to new vocabulary in books, supported by brief explanations and visual elements and modeled appropriately within sentences. Hundreds of books and songs offer rich vocabulary experiences; accompanying glossaries provide clear and engaging child-friendly meanings, illustrations, and usage examples. Virtually every page and activity on the site has accompanying oral explanations; a correlation between oral language and visual content supports understanding.	Books All About Monkeys All About Planets Circles Everywhere I Want to Play an Instrument! Puzzles Rhyming Words Jigsaw Games Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Songs Letter chants

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Children's mathematics achievement at the start of kindergarten is a strong predictor of their academic success. Children's mathematical knowledge is deepened when teachers actively connect concepts from books to hands-on mathematics activities so that children can apply and practice what they have learned.	The Albert Shanker Institute "Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers" http://www.shankerinstitute.org/Downloads/Early%20Childhood%2012-11-08.pdf	Children are introduced to foundation mathematical concepts in geometry, measurement, patterning, algebra, and numbers and operations through games, songs, books, puzzles, and art. Mathematical concepts are presented in child-friendly language while incorporating important and necessary mathematical nomenclature. ABCmouse.com introduces important mathematical concepts through short stories, and children are provided opportunities to practice the new concepts through related games, art activities, and songs.	Books Triangles Everywhere Puzzles Triangle Jigsaw Games Shapes at the Market: Triangles Shapes at the Zoo: Triangles Art Picture the Triangles: Trees
Children maintain a firm grasp on new knowledge, skills, and vocabulary when teachers facilitate a variety of experiences that relate to the same broad science concept. In-depth science studies that integrate oral language, literacy, and mathematics provide meaningful and coherent learning experiences for young children.	The Albert Shanker Institute "Preschool Curriculum: What's in It for Children and Teachers" http://www.shankerinstitute.org/Downloads/Early%20Childhood%2012-11-08.pdf	The ABCmouse.com nonfiction collection addresses topics in the areas of the physical sciences, life sciences, and earth sciences. Nonfiction science books are extensively illustrated with photographs that give students vivid real-world connections to the concepts being explained. The 18 environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path, representing six biomes as well as the atmosphere and Solar System, offer children rich opportunities to learn about the interrelations of plants, animals, and climate that characterize Earth's ecosystems.	Books Colors in the Mountains and Lakes How Plants Grow Opposites All Around Wash! Brush! Comb! Puzzles Your Body All Around Games Shapes at the Market Weather Poetry Features Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments

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Mathematics and science lessons should be integrated with each other and with other content domains.	National Institute for Early Education Research "Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice" http://nieer.org/resources/policybr iefs/20.pdf	Nonfiction and fiction books, songs, as well as puzzle and art activities that feature science and math content also develop literacy, problem-solving, and artistic skills. ABCmouse.com content incorporates shapes and numbers into hundreds of art activities and printables. The environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path illustrate and explicitly teach concepts and facts in life sciences and earth sciences. Many of the facts regarding the denizens of these environments are described with appropriate mathematical language.	Books I to 10 in the Mountains and Lakes Counting with Desert Friends Mountains of Numbers Puzzles Spring Jigsaw Games Counting with Lizzy Paint-by-Numbers: Rocket in the Sky Features Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments
Science and math interactions support vocabulary development by exposing children to a variety of new words in meaningful contexts. Research suggests that exposure to uncommon vocabulary words predicts vocabulary development—which predicts reading achievement—and that participation in sustained science experiences results in vocabulary gains for preschoolers.	National Institute for Early Education Research "Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice" http://nieer.org/resources/policybr iefs/20.pdf	The extensive World Around Us collection of books offers new vocabulary in appropriate contexts. Vocabulary is reinforced through associated puzzles, games, and art activities. Search and Explore books are interactive and provide children with repetitive exposure to new vocabulary words through a labeling/search activity at the end of the story. The interactive environments of the Step-by-Step Learning Path present concepts and facts about hundreds of plants and animals, as well as climate-related information, with appropriate and rich vocabulary content.	Books All About Elephants All About the Weather Let's Be Healthy Search and Explore: The Grand Canyon Features Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments

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By providing an environment that is mathematically rich, teachers lay the foundation for their students' future success in learning school mathematics. Curriculum should encourage thinking and reasoning about numbers as well as support investigations into size, quantity, properties of objects, patterns, space, and measurement.	National Institute for Early Education Research "Math and Science in Preschool: Policies and Practice" http://nieer.org/resources/policybr iefs/20.pdf	Children are introduced to mathematical concepts through books, games, songs, puzzles, and art. Learning activities allow children to practice and explore mathematical concepts in these domains: Numbers Counting Addition and Subtraction Size and Quantity Patterns Shapes Measurement	Books I to 10 in My Closet Puzzles Star Jigsaw Games Dinosaur Chomp Number Line Mix Up Plenty of Patterns
The more students use multiple systems of representing knowledge, the better they are able to think about and recall what they have learned.	Marzano, R.J., Pickering, D., & Pollock, J.E. (2001). Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement. Alexandria, Va: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	Each concept is presented through multiple learning activities that offer different modes of interaction. All foundation level skills are developed through the use of books, games, songs, puzzles, and art activities.	Books
Games have been found to serve a range of functions in education, including tutoring, helping to explore new skills, promoting self-esteem, practicing existing skills, and changing an attitude.	Institute of Education Sciences "Instructional gaming: Implications for instructional technology" http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED3 68345.pdf	ABCmouse.com educational games help children to practice and reinforce early literacy and math skills, provide them opportunities to explore and investigate new concepts or topics that are intriguing, and help children to cultivate a positive attitude toward learning.	Games • ABC's at the Zoo • Alphabet Wheel • Farm Letter Line A-H • Number Line 1-5

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It is essential to propose different methods to introduce these young learners to written language before they begin their schooling. Because music education offers a holistic type of education that may facilitate the development of listening and analysis abilities, music can be used as an efficient complementary educational approach.	Early Childhood Research & Practice "The Effects of Music Instruction on Emergent Literacy Capacities among Preschool Children: A Literature Review" http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n1/bolduc. html	Both familiar and original songs enhance understanding of science concepts, colors, letters, sounds, shapes, and holidays. "Bouncing ball" lyrics help children relate oral to written language. Each song offers an illustrated glossary in child-friendly language with examples of usage. Letter Songs A to Z music videos help children relate oral to written language through high-interest repetition.	Songs ABC Alphabet Song If You're Happy and You Know It Letter Songs A to Z The Wheels on the Bus
Musical activities promote the development of auditory perception, phonological memory, and metacognitive knowledge—three components that are equally involved in the development of linguistic abilities.	Early Childhood Research & Practice "The Effects of Music Instruction on Emergent Literacy Capacities among Preschool Children: A Literature Review" http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/v10n1/bolduc. html	The many original and classic children songs on ABCmouse.com have been produced with high production standards; rich arrangements embodying a wide range of music genres; and engaging melodies, rhythms, and lyrics that invite singing and dancing along.	Songs The Classroom Is the Place to Be The Four Seasons I'm a Little Teapot The Letter G Sound of Letter A Where Do Rainbows Go?
There are substantial and consistent advantages for programs that include systematic phonics, as measured by outcomes on word recognition, spelling, vocabulary, and reading comprehension, at least through the third grade. There is also the need to provide children with reading practice that would generate reading fluency and the value in offering challenging reading material as well as texts that enable children to practice skills they have acquired.	National Academies Press "Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children" http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php ?record_id=6023&page=R1	The ABCmouse.com website offers hundreds of learning activities with objectives that relate to phonics learning. Objectives and strategies include: Phonological and phonemic awareness Identification and recognition of letter names Implicit phonics instructions with many examples of words that illustrate sounds of the letters being taught Explicit phonics instruction that teaches the most common sounds of each alphabet letter Word families CVC decoding	Books All About Gorillas All About Lions Puzzles Animals of Africa Cutout Alphabet Zoo Jigsaws: Gorillas Alphabet Zoo Jigsaws: Lions Games Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Swing With the Monkeys Art Alphabet Painting: A Is for Alligator Zoo Animal Matching game Paint-by-Number: Giraffe

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By perusing patterned and predictable books, children learn how to use predictions and picture cues to augment and/or reinforce the text, even as they develop basic book-handling habits.	National Academies Press "Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children" http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php record id=6023&page=R1	Many of the books, stories, poems, and songs on ABCmouse.com are predictable forms of text.	Books A to Z at the Market Zoo Animals A-Z Songs Letter chants Letter songs
There is no need to wait until a child knows all the letters of the alphabet to start explicit instruction in decoding—knowledge of the sound value of a few consonants and vowels may be enough on which to build phonemic awareness and initial word-reading instruction.	National Academies Press "Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children" http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php ?record_id=6023&page=R1	Children are taught decoding strategies by gaining exposure and familiarity with word families, listening to how words are broken into syllables, letter-sound activities, and beginning and ending sound activities.	Books To Run Is Fun Games Alphabet Sounds at the Market Alphabet Sounds at the Zoo Big Bug and Little Bug Matching Cards Word Family Memory Match Songs Sounds of the Letter C
There are four ways a teacher can support young children's vocabulary learning: 1. Provide purposeful exposure to new words 2. Intentionally teach word meanings 3. Teach word-learning strategies 4. Offer opportunities to use newly learned words	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) "Bridging the Vocabulary Gap: What the Research Tells Us about Vocabulary Instruction in Early Childhood" http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201007/ChristWangOnline.pdf	Choice of vocabulary in fiction and nonfiction books and songs is intentional so that children have rich language experiences that contextualize new vocabulary words so as to support comprehension. The site's glossary of nearly 1,000 words offers explanations of word meanings in child-friendly language, with illustrations and examples of usage. The site's Step-by-Step Learning Path Environments, Zoo, Farm, and Shopping area all offer rich language experiences.	Books The Grasshopper and the Ants Words Have Families, Too! Games Ostrich Egg Hatcher Art Paint-by-Sight Words

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Electronic texts and read-aloud books can be motivating and effective when they call for children to actively engage with the words.	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) "Bridging the Vocabulary Gap: What the Research Tells Us about Vocabulary Instruction in Early Childhood" http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/201007/ChristWangOnline.pdf	Books are accompanied by related activities in which students engage with words in games, songs, puzzles, and art activities.	Books