

# ZEKE'S FUN AT HOME ACTIVITY CORNER

March 3, 2020

Dear Parents, since many of us are shuttered during this trying time in America, there is no reason not to enjoy this “together-time” and help our precious kids learn valuable literacy skills at the same time. And, learning shouldn't be drudgery. In fact, learning should be **playful, fun and physical**. Remember, children are physical and need to learn through their every-moving bodies!

1. Start by watching *Safari Sid* on YouTube. Get those **bodies moving** while practicing the sounds and Signals of the Zoo-phonics alphabet! Parents, this is your time to learn the Signals and sounds too!
2. **Play, “Where is allie alligator?”** Take your *Zoo-phonics Alphabet Cards* and spread some or all (depending on the age of the child) on the floor.
  - a. Now ask your child(ren), “Can you find allie alligator?”
  - b. As the child hunts, you can say, “hotter, hotter, colder, colder” to help them.
  - c. Once found, give high praise and Signal, give the **letter sound**, and name the Alliterative Animal's Name (allie alligator!).
  - d. Take a minute to discover what your child know about alligators (bears, cats, etc.). This is a good time to go online to YouTube and look at videos of alligators (etc.). **Allow your child to talk**. Really listen! Supply them with age-appropriate information: alligators are reptiles that are amphibians (they live in water and on land). They lay eggs. They eat meat. They are a predator (rabbits are not). Explain vocabulary words!
  - e. American alligators can grow up to 15 feet. With a measuring tape or yard stick, measure out 15 feet. Measure your child lying down near the alligator measurement. Show the differences. The alligator might be 11- 12 feet longer than your child! That is CRAZY! Do this with other Zoo-phonics Animals. Did you know that inny inchworm is only 1 inch long? Compare that to your child's length! Your child is now a giant.
3. **Play “Zoophonia Says.”** (Play just like Simon Says”). Zoophonia will give permission to Signal the Zoo-phonics Animals. *Example:* Say: “Zoophonia says, ‘Do missy mouse!’” Your child(ren) will Signal and sound missy mouse's Body Signal and say the sound, /m/. BUT if Zoophonia doesn't say, “Zoophonia says....” The children are to hold very still!
4. **Literature.** Have your child chose a favorite book to read. Stop at key words and Signal the first sound you hear in the word. Determining sounds in words leads to reading, spelling and writing success in the future!
5. **Music.** Put on some fun music and dance around the house! Sing loudly and happily!
6. **For Your Older “4's” or Kindergarten Children!** If your child is ready to spell and read some simple words, give him/her some **playful** practice today! Using the word list below, try these spelling and reading games.
  - a. **The “Make It Say...Game.”** This game is great for new “readers and spellers.” Take the “a” and the “d” Merged Animal Letter Cards and put them together closely so your child can see them as “ad.” Now grab the “b,” “c,” “f,” “h,” “l,” “m,” “p,” “r,” “s” and the “t.” Your child will add one of these Letters to the front of the “ad” (rime) word making new words: **bad, cad, fad, had, lad, mad, pad, rad, sad, and tad.** Signal, sound and say each word together. You can spell out “dad” if you have one more “d.” (Use the Star in your *Large Lowercase Animal Alphabet Card* set for duplicate letters.)
  - b. **Flash Cards.** Make flashcards on 3” x 5” index cards using the Word List Below. Instead of boring “kill and drill,” use them for fun and physical games.
    1. **Do relay races.** Place a stack of index cards (one word family at first) 15 feet away. Your child will run to the word, read it aloud, and run back. See how many words your child(ren) can read in a minute.
    2. **a-b-c order.** Take that stack of words and see how fast s/he can put the words in a-b-c order.
    3. **“Flash and Time!”** How fast can your child read the stack of words? Wait until they are ready for this activity.
    4. **Connect to Other Games.** Use your “Shoots and Ladders” and “Candy Land” games and play the same way. Once you “land” on a square, have your child draw one (index) word card to read.



**NOTE:** “Fast” also means automatic. If the child feels any pressure with the speed of the activities, ease off a bit. This is supposed to be fun for you all.

## VC/CVC Word List

**ad**, bad, cad, dad\*, had, lad, mad, pad, rad, sad, tad; **an**, ban, can, fan, man, pan, ran, van; **at**, bat, cat, fat, mat, rat, sat, vat; **in**, bin, din, pin; **it**, bit, hit, kit, lit, pit, sit; **op**: bop, cop, lop, mop, pop\*, stop; **up**, cup, pup\*, sup. (“dad” needs two “d’s.” Use the Star to represent the extra “d”!)