

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



You Can Be ABCs

Written by Robert Samuel
White II and Robert Samuel
White III
Illustrated by Robert Paul, Jr.

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

What will you choose to be when you grow up? These occupation ideas, one for each letter in the alphabet, offer fresh and important possibilities!

Genre: Picture/alphabet, occupations

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *You Can Be ABCs* to introduce in your classroom:

Occupations names, materials seen and their descriptors from the rap/story

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning
Item B
(Problem solving with materials)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item G *(Community)*

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item O
(Alphabetic knowledge)

Creative Arts
Item Z *(Movement)*

Reading Tips

Let your class know that this book is actually a rap song written by a father and son team! Start a slow whole group clap and read in time with the beat. This book can be shared multiple times as the children ask about the different occupations. Prepare to answer a lot of questions, and to use a range of resources to help the children learn about these important careers they might want to do when they grow up!

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Choose any of the occupations to be the focus of **Small Group Time**. Have children explore relevant materials for each chosen occupation. For example, for engineer, the children can each have slime, oobleck, or goop to try and mold or manipulate into various containers. Have tools and other materials to offer as children problem solve how to make whatever they have in mind work (pipe cleaners, scissors, rubber bands, paper clips for example). This type of activity can be done for other jobs.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Include other ABC books in the **Book Area** for children to compare how many different ways the alphabet can be presented. Two outstanding choices could be "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin, Jr. and "Miss Bindergarten Gets ready for Kindergarten" by Joseph Slate.

Add photos of real people doing the jobs in the story to the **House Area**. Provide new props to support pretend play there.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *You Can Be ABCs*:

What is your favorite job from the book? Why?

How would you do the job?

Do you have other ideas of jobs you'd like to learn about?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *You Can Be ABCs* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your child read *You Can Be ABCs*, stop often to talk about what the people are really doing on the pages. Ask your child to stop you when they have a question or want to talk about a certain occupation. Go to YouTube and look for the rap-version video (same title!) and clap along with Sam and his dad- the authors of this book! As you revisit and re-read this book, review the many possibilities that await your child. Ask questions like, "What would you need to be a biochemist?" Encourage looking at and identifying the materials on each page- the tools of each trade.