

Parents and Teachers Notes

Alphabet Town by Bryan Evans

Alphabet Town is a colourful picture book that introduces young children to letters, words and numbers through an imaginative story about cooperation, curiosity and belonging.

The story can be used at home or in the classroom to support early literacy, early numeracy and social-emotional learning.

Learning themes

Children can explore:

- recognising letters and numbers
- understanding that letters make words
- understanding that numbers help us count
- working together and sharing knowledge
- friendship, confidence and self-worth
- the idea that everyone has something valuable to contribute

Before reading

Invite children to look carefully at the cover.

Ask:

- What letters can you recognise?
- What numbers can you see?
- What do you think Alphabet Town might be like?
- What do you think Zero may be feeling?

During reading

Pause occasionally and encourage children to predict what may happen next.

Discuss:

- Why does Zero feel invisible?
- What makes Spot curious?
- What can the letters do?
- What can the numbers do?
- How do the two towns help one another?
- What does Zero discover by the end of the story?

After reading

Talk about the message:

Everybody amounts to something.

Ask children:

- What is something you are good at?
- How can we help someone who feels left out?
- Why is it useful for people to have different skills?
- What happens when we work together?

Suggested activities

Letter hunt

Ask children to find objects beginning with different letters of the alphabet.

Number hunt

Look for numbers around the classroom, home or neighbourhood.

Make a word

Give children letter cards and invite them to build simple words.

Count and match

Match number cards with groups of objects.

Create a town character

Children can draw their own friendly letter or number character and give it a name and special talent.

Alphabet Town map

Create a class map showing where different letters might live.

Suitable for

Alphabet Town is ideal for:

- preschool and kindergarten
- early primary classrooms
- home reading
- literacy and numeracy groups
- library story sessions
- discussions about confidence, inclusion and belonging

Key message

Every child has value, every skill is important, and wonderful things can happen when we learn from one another.