



ZOO KEEPER TEACHER FIELD GUIDE



A Year-at-a-Glance Guide for
Zoo Keeper Lesson Plans™
Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™
Animal a Week™



IT'S TIME TO START BOOT CAMP!



INTRODUCTION

Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™ is a research-based, rigorous, immersive classroom-proven 26-day introduction to letters and sounds. It is one part of the entire Letters alive® supplemental curriculum.

Here's what we will do in Boot Camp!

- Take a few days to plan and prepare for camp.
- Use your literacy block for 26 days to focus on 1 letter and 1 sound each day.
- Complete the daily camp activities for each letter and sound.
- Use the Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp pdf (found in your Letters alive menu) to find and print all the resources needed.
- Celebrate Boot Camp completion with the Zoo Keeper Fashion Show!

Outside of kindergarten, you can also use this guide at your own pace to fit the specific needs of your students and district.

Here are some achievable results!

In a blind study of over 200 kindergarten classrooms with an average of 19 students per classroom the following results were achieved in ONLY 26 days using ABC Boot Camp:


	Before Boot Camp Percentage of Students	After Boot Camp Percentage of Students
Knew all Uppercase Letters	26%	84%
Knew all Lowercase Letters	26%	79%
Knew all Letter Sounds	16%	79%



PLAN AND PREPARE

Each of the page references below refers to your Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™, which is found in your Letters alive software menu.

Here's how to conduct a typical day of Boot Camp!

- | | | | |
|---|--------|--|--------|
| • Conduct your Morning Meeting. | pg 25 |  | |
| • Play Alphabet Song(s). | pg 27 | | |
| • Review the Alphabet Chart. | pg 28 | | |
| • Introduce the letter and sound with the whole group Circle Chart. | pg 30 | | |
| • Use Letters alive to explore the letter and meet the animal. | pg 60 | • In Week 3, start introducing Literacy Center activities. These 12 activities are found in Boot Camp Literacy Centers, which is also found in your Letters alive software menu. | |
| • Model letter formation and practice with handwriting sheets. | pg 62 | • In Week 4, start introducing the optional My Letters alive Journals. | pg 21 |
| • Make Zoo Animal Hats. | pg 117 | • Host your Zoo Keeper Fashion Show to celebrate your Boot Camp completion. | pg 389 |
| • Present students with Zoo Baby Badges. | pg 172 | | |

Here are some of our goals for Boot Camp!

- Students will recognize and name all 26 uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Students will identify the beginning sound for all 26 letters.
- Students will use proper letter formation to write all 26 letters (upper & lower case).

FIELD GUIDE

Week at a Glance



DAY 1

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!

DAY 2

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!

DAY 3

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!

DAY 4

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!

DAY 5

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!

FIELD GUIDE

Week at a Glance



DAY 26

Today's letter is _____

1. Let's have our Morning Meeting!
2. Play Alphabet Song(s).
3. Review the Alphabet Chart.
4. Introduce and discuss letter with whole group Circle Chart.
5. Introduce the animal with Letters alive.
6. Explicitly model letter formation and complete the handwriting sheets.
7. Make Animal Hats.
8. Present students with Zoo Baby Badge!
9. Add activities from Literacy Centers.
10. Use Journals in Small Group.

Continue working with the optional My Letters alive Student Journals in small groups until they are completed.

ZOO KEEPER ABC BOOT CAMP CELEBRATION!

Find the pages below in your Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp and let's celebrate!

1. Conduct your final student assessments (details on page 20).
2. Help any students complete any unfinished Zoo Keeper Vests.
3. Print Zoo Keeper Certificates for each student on page 403.
4. Make final plans for your Zoo Keeper Fashion Show on page 389.



IT'S TIME TO TOUR THE ZOO WITH ANIMAL A WEEK!!



INTRODUCTION

Enhance your literacy block with this magical tour of the Alive Studios Zoo! Over the next 26 weeks, we will be touring 26 animal exhibits. Within each exhibit, we will be introducing and teaching early literacy skills aligned to kindergarten ELA standards. The alignment to these standards can be found in your Animal a Week pdf.

Some things we'll do for each Animal a Week!

- Read a short rhyming story about the animal.
- Learn concepts of print.
- Practice story comprehension.
- Learn about beginning letter sounds and syllables.
- Learn about the animal's habitat.
- Build words phonetically with letters.
- Build words phonetically with word families.
- Lead an animal topic discussion.
- Practice sight words.
- Build sentences.
- Do an animal project.
- Complete an animal craft.
- Make and eat animal snacks.
- Conduct student assessments.
- Select activities from the following literacy centers: alphabet, phonemic awareness, writing work, reading, and word work.

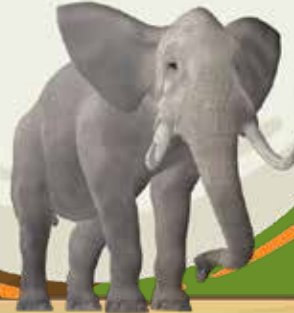


SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Animal of the Week	Sight Words	Rimes, Digraphs, Blends	Social/Emotional Growth Skill
Amos Alligator	can, the, I	at, ad an	Self-Management: Managing Time
Brody Bear	that, is, blue	ap, ag, am	Self-Management: Expressing Emotions (sadness)
Celine Cow	my, this, black	it, id, ig	Self-Management: Self-Discipline
Dana Dolphin	swim, you, to	in, ip, ib	Success Skills & Attitudes: Initiation & Action (playfulness)
Edie Elephant	big, little, and, get	et, ed, eg, en	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Effective Communication (listening to others)
Frankie Frog	green, a, find	ot, op, og	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Conflict Management (bullying)
Gerdy Giraffe	look, at, for, into	ut, un, ud	Success Skills & Attitudes: Self Confidence & Positivity (joy of reading)
Henry Horse	ride, go, we, on	ug, ub	Self Management: Organization (keeping up with your things)
Ima Iguana	went, where, she, did	sh, ch, th	Self Awareness: Capacity To Be A Change Agent (courage / adventure)
James Jaguar	ran, with, away, out	qu	Success Skills & Attitudes: Commitment To Excellence
Katie Kangaroo	jump, up, down, in	wh, wr, kn	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Positive Relationships (family)
Larry Lion	eat, it, come, must	ate, ake, ale, ame	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Remorse (truthfulness)
Michael Moose	funny, see, well	ide, ine, ice	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Social Awareness & Empathy (good manners)
Norwood Narwhal	he, like, do, will	oke, ore	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Positive Relationships (being nice to others)
Ollie Orangutan	help, said, me, an	bl, fl, pl, sl, cl, gl	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Positive Relationships (helping others)
Percy Peacock	pretty, are, am, so	br, dr, fr, pr, tr, cr, gr	Self Management: Planning
Quentin Quail	walk, run, not, they	sm, sn, sk, sp	Self Awareness: Self Acceptance
Randy Rooster	red, say, please, but	st, sw, sc	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Positive Relationships (sharing with others)
Sergio Seal	play, soon, came, who	spr, str, scr, spl	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Social Awareness (diversity)
Tommy Toucan	yes, no, yellow, too	ack, ash, ank, all	Success Skills & Attitudes: Initiation & Action Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Leadership (cleanliness / not littering)
Ulla Unau	brown, what, ate	ick, ill, ing, ink	Self Management: Patience and Poise
Victor Vulture	fly, now, one, want	est, ell	Self-Management: Self-Confidence
Wagner Wolf	was, our, good, new, be	ock, uck, ump	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Positive Relationships (accepting others)
Xavier X-Ray Fish	have, two, three, four	ail, ain, ay, aw	Self Awareness: Traits & Attributes (personal hygiene)
Yosabee Yak	under, there, saw	out, ow	Social Awareness/Relationship Skills & Traits: Collaboration & Teamwork (taking turns)
Zelda Zebra	white, here, make, all	ight	Success Skills & Attitudes: Gratitude



EDIE ELEPHANT WEEK



PLAN AND PREPARE

Here's what we'll learn this week while visiting Edie.

- Elephant Facts
- Elephant Habitat
- Sight Words: **big, little, and, get**
- Building Words: **-et, -ed, -eg, -en**
- Building three- and four-word sentences
- Building statements and questions

Here are things we'll need on our zoo tour.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edie Elephant has Enormous Ears - Short Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Habitat - Jungle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters alive Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Craft - Handprint Elephants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Facts - Elephant | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Craft - Zoo Baby Hats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Circle Chart - Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Snack - Edie's Peanut Butter Sandwich |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Circle Chart - Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Edie Elephant Certificates |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy Center Resources |

Note: You can also use Literacy Center Resources from your Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™ to offer more options.

Here are some of our goals for Edie Elephant Week.

- I can describe elephants using characteristics of the animal.
- I can describe an elephant's habitat.
- I can distinguish the short and long sounds of the vowel **Ee**.
- I can write the letter **Ee** and use it in a word.
- I can build/write words using the letter **Ee** and also the rimes: **-et, -ed, -eg, -en**.
- I can build/write a sentence using capitals, spaces, and punctuation.
- I can read the sight words: **big, little, and, get**.
- I can match pictures by beginning sounds.
- I can name the parts of a book.
- I can tell the character, setting, problem, and solution in a story.
- I can draw, talk, and write to share a story/information about elephants.
- I can count syllables in common words.
- I can name words that rhyme with **-et, -ed, -eg, -en**.

FIELD GUIDE

Edie Elephant Week



SIGHT WORDS: big, little, and, get
WORD FAMILIES: -et, -ed, -eg, -en

DAY 1

- 1 **Let's read a story about Edie Elephant**
concepts of print, listening
- 2 **Let's learn about the elephant's name.**
letter sounds, syllables, etc
- 3 **Let's learn about real elephants.**
elephant facts (Circle Chart)
- 4 **Let's build sentences.**
See what elephants can do - build action sentences.
- 5 **Let's build words.**
Build CVC words with Ee.
Let's do our Literacy Centers!
Select from five literacy centers.

DAY 2

- 1 **Let's learn more about Edie's story.**
sight words, rhyming words, comprehension
- 2 **Let's learn where elephants live.**
real elephants - elephant video - jungle habitat (Circle Chart)
- 3 **Let's see if I can do what elephants can do.**
Discussion - What can I do that elephants can do?
- 4 **Let's build more words.**
Build words with -et rime.
Let's do our Literacy Centers!
Select from five literacy centers.

The discussion and activity lessons about **animal actions** on day 2 and day 4 will repeat for alligator, elephant, iguana, moose, quail, unau, and yak.

DAY 3

- 1 **Let's review Edie's story.**
Review concepts of print.
- 2 **Let's review what we've learned about real elephants.**
Circle Chart review
- 3 **Let's review our sight words and sentence building.**
sight word / sentence review
(missing word game)
- 4 **Let's build more words.**
Build words with -ed rime.
Let's do our Literacy Centers!
Select from five literacy centers.

DAY 4

- 1 **Let's retell Edie's story.**
Create and tell your own short story.
- 2 **Let's complete our elephant Circle Charts.**
Circle Chart wrap up
- 3 **Let's draw, color, write our own story.**
Draw and write your own short story.
- 4 **Let's play the Edie Elephant Charades Game.**
Activity - Act out action words (like elephants - like me).
- 5 **Let's build more words.**
Build words with -eg and -en rimes.
Let's do our Literacy Centers!
Select from five literacy centers.

DAY 5

ZOO REVIEW

- 1 **Let's do a fun elephant project.**
- 2 **Let's make and eat elephant snacks.**
- 3 **Let's wag our tails and celebrate.**
- 4 **Let's assess what we've learned.**