



Science of Reading Alignment

Letters alive®: Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™ + Animal a Week™

Science of Reading Pillar	Zoo Keeper ABC Boot Camp™	Animal a Week™	Detailed Alignment
Phonemic Awareness	Explicit, daily introduction of beginning sounds and rhyming	Continues with syllables, rhymes, and segmenting and blending activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Picture-sound matching, syllable counting, rhyming games (e.g., -at, -am, -og). ● Circle Chart activities focus on initial sounds of animal names and descriptive words. ● Students isolate, blend, and manipulate phonemes using word families and songs.
Phonics	26-day progression, 1 letter + sound per day	Weekly focus on word families, digraphs, blends, and sentence construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weekly CVC word building (e.g., frog = /f/ /r/ /o/ /g/). ● Builds upon Boot Camp by introducing rimes (-et, -in, -oke), blends (bl-, gr-), and digraphs (sh-, th-). ● Students practice decoding and encoding in real, meaningful contexts.
Fluency	Modeled through daily songs, chants, and sentence practice	Sight word practice and repeated readings of animal-themed stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Weekly focus on new sight words. ● Daily practice reading short, predictable texts. ● Repeated reading of stories builds prosody and confidence.
Vocabulary	Embedded in animal names, habitats, and related content	Expands to science-based vocabulary through nonfiction exploration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students learn animal attributes, habitats, actions, and descriptive terms (e.g., “mane,” “swamp,” “herbivore”). ● Oral and written expression tied to thematic vocabulary. ● Hands-on crafts and Circle Charts help anchor new words.
Comprehension	Retelling, story mapping, and sentence building daily	Weekly thematic stories tied to real animal facts and SEL themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each week includes a story (e.g., *Dana Dolphin’s Deep Dives*) with goals: character, setting, problem, solution. ● Students draw, dictate, and write personal or animal-based stories. ● Integrated SEL themes (e.g., managing time, showing kindness) support deeper understanding.

Cross-Program Literacy Practices that Reinforce the Science of Reading

Practice	Implementation in Boot Camp & Animal a Week™
Explicit Instruction	Letter sounds, word building, and sight word reading are modeled and practiced every day.
Spiraled & Cumulative Review	Letters and sounds are revisited throughout the year (e.g., Aa in Boot Camp → Aa in “Amos Alligator” week).
Connected Decodable Text	Each animal story matches the phonics focus and reinforces new sounds (e.g., long a, short a = Amos Alligator).
Multisensory Learning	Students sing, build crafts, act out verbs, and interact with 3D AR animals using Letters alive.
Speaking & Listening	Students discuss habitats, retell stories, act out animal actions, and participate in SEL conversations.
Print Concepts	Storybooks and Circle Charts emphasize directionality, parts of a book, sentence structure, and punctuation.
Assessment Opportunities	Weekly 'Zoo Review' activities assess letter knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS CONTINUUM WITH LETTERS ALIVE®

Letters alive integrates foundational literacy instruction into a zoo-themed experience, helping develop rich oral language and background knowledge. Its multisensory, cross-curricular lessons encourage collaboration and verbal reasoning. Here are some ways Letters alive supports the phonological awareness continuum.



LISTENING	RHYME AND ALLITERATION	WORDS	SYLLABLES	ONSET AND RIME	PHONEMES
Identify, compare, and replicate spoken and environmental sounds.	Recognize and produce words with the same initial sound or ending pattern.	Distinguish and count the number of individual words in a sentence	Identify syllables in words and segment compound words.	Blend, segment, and manipulate onsets and rimes to form new words.	Combine, isolate, delete, add, or substitute phonemes to form new words.
SIMPLE			COMPLEX		
<p>With the Letters alive, students are introduced to letters, words, animals, habitats, and environmental sounds every week to develop listening skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore real animals and their sounds using 3D augmented reality animals and habitat videos. Listen to informational texts about animals and habitats, demonstrating comprehension through discussion. Acquire rich vocabulary while learning about animals and their habitats. Listen to short stories to identify voiced sounds and onomatopoeias. 	<p>Beginning sounds and rhyming words can be identified and created in various ways using the Building Words module, short rhyming stories, and lessons and activities within Letters alive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build rhyming words using blend, digraph, and rime cards reinforced with auditory, visual, and kinesthetic cues. Each week read a short story, identifying and generating rhyming words and alliteration. Use Circle Charts to identify beginning sounds and brainstorm words with the same initial sound. 	<p>Sentences and phrases can be broken down into individual words with the Letters and Building Sentences module. Auditory, visual, and kinesthetic cues support the understanding that language consists of distinct words, each with meaning, that can be recognized and counted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build three and four word sentences using animal/letter cards and PK/K Dolch sight word cards to learn about animals. Then, tap each word to hear and count. Build sentences with a word missing. Students determine how many words are needed and add the missing word. 	<p>ABC Boot Camp and Animal a Week Lesson Plans introduce the animals, the animal's names, and the beginning phoneme(s) for each name. Multi-sensory activities within Letters alive make this purposeful and targeted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students count the syllables in the animal's name, and compare them to the syllables in their own names. Explore syllables in the words within Alive Studios Zoo's 26 rhyming short stories. Using the Building Words module, students can build one and two syllable words. Then they can tap to listen to the word and count the syllables. 	<p>The Building Words module utilizes 38 onsets (letters, digraphs, and blends) and 53 rime cards for word building activities with visual, auditory, and kinesthetic cues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add or delete onset and rime cards to isolate phonemes. Blend, segment, and manipulate onset and rime cards to reinforce phonological flexibility. 	<p>Utilizing the Building Words module, individual phonemes can be manipulated to reinforce foundational phonemic awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce and isolate beginning phonemes of thousands of words. Build CVC and nonsense words by manipulating phonemes orally. Practice phoneme segmentation and blending with interactive phoneme cards.

Letters alive® helps students bridge phonological awareness and phonics by connecting 26 animals to their phonemes, making it easier to link sounds to letters.

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