

Alphabet Smash



The Letter R



Sound: /r/ (ran)



Kinesthetic: Form letters out of play dough, your body, or make letters outside from nature (sticks, leaves, petals, pinecones, etc.).



Alphabet Book: [Download Alphabet Worksheets here](#)

•**Block Letter Pages:** Glue pieces of ribbon or rice (can color with food coloring and shake in a baggie) onto your block letter **R**'s page.

•**Clip Art Pages:** Cut and paste clip art onto your **R**'s page.



Handwriting Pages: Practice several upper and lower case letters every day this week.



Menu Ideas:

radish, Ragu Sauce™, rainbow sherbet, Rainbow Trout, Raisin Bran™ cereal, raisins, Ramen™ noodles, ranch dressing & veggies, raspberries, ratatouille, ravioli, red jello, red onion, red potatoes, Reese's Pieces™, relish, Reuben sandwich, rhubarb, ribeye steak, ribs, rice, rice cakes, ricotta cheese, rice pudding, Rice Krispies™ cereal, Rice Krispy™ treats, risotto, Ritz Crackers™, roast beef, Rocky Road ice-cream, Rollos™ candies, rolls, Romaine lettuce, root beer, rosemary, Ruffles™ potato chips, rutabagas, rye bread



Field Trip Ideas: Go to a race (car, dog, horse, marathon); Go see a race car; Tour a radio station; Raptor Center, recycling plant tour; Renaissance Festival, Go rock climbing, Watch a rock concert, Attend a rodeo, Meet a real estate broker; Go out to eat at a new restaurant; Go roller skating.



Bible Ideas:

The Story of Rachel, Rebekah, Rehab, Rehobam, Reuben, Rhoda, Ruth, resurrection of Christ, The Roman Empire

Missionary: Rowland Bingham (1872-1942)- Africa

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Copy work & Memory Verse: R- “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8)

Character Traits: Rejoicing, Reliable, Resourceful, Respectful, Responsible, Reverent, [The Golden Rule](#)



Art:

- Draw rabbits.
- Color a rainbow: **ROYGBIV** (Red, orange, yellow, green blue, indigo, violet)
- **Rainbow rain:** Put large watery drops of different color paint with a paint brush at top of piece of paper and then hold vertical on an easel encouraging drops to drip and run down paper.
- Try rubber stamping with rubber stamps and an ink pad.
- [Rainbow Rice:](#)

Take 2 teaspoons of rubbing alcohol, a good amount of food coloring and about 3/4 cup of rice in a ziplock bag and shake. Let dry on cookie sheet. Glue onto your **R** or make pretty pictures with your rainbow rice. (Food coloring can stain clothes.)

- **Rubbings:** Using the side of a crayon; rub leaves, coins, keys, paper clips, safety pins, etc...
- Make a [coffee filter rose](#).
- Make a **reindeer:** upside down footprint for head and one handprint for antlers (at heel of footprint). Draw eyes and nose.



Artist study: [Rembrandt](#), [Norman Rockwell](#)



Poetry:

Read [Christina Rossetti's poems](#).

Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book

by Christina Rossetti

The Complete Poems by Christina

Rossetti

Mother Goose:

“RAIN”

Rain, rain, go away,
Come again another day;
Little Johnny wants to play.



Activities:

- Have recess.
- Rest.
- Ride a riding lawnmower.
- Play a recorder.



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- Listen to the **radio**.
- Make **rock** candy.
- **Roller-skate** at a **rink** or in your driveway.
- Play in the **rain** with **rain boots** and an umbrella.
- Pretend to be a **robot**.
- **Rock** child in a **rocking chair**.
- Use a **rolling pin** to **roll** play dough.
- **Rake** leaves in a pile and **JUMP!**
- Share a **rock** collection. [Start a rock collection.](#)
- Have child **race** with his friends.
- Play **racquetball**.
- Make a **routine**. Our children's morning **routine** consists of: Make bed, eat breakfast, brush teeth, get dressed, and brush hair. I laminated a little chart with pictures of these five activities and hung it for my children to see every morning.
- Make a **repair shop**: Take apart real life things to make **real life** puzzles; For example, give kids a flash light to try then take it completely apart; batteries bulb, etc.. Then let child attempt to put back together.
- Buy or grow **roses**. Put on kitchen table to enjoy.
- **Recycle**. Make separate containers for paper and plastic.
- Save **recyclables** and build something (use cardboard boxes, tubes, cans, plastic, etc.).
- **Roll** ball into empty bucket or empty trash can as a game or roll a ball to each other.
- Borrow a kid's cook book from the library and let child choose a **recipe**. Then help them make the recipe.
- **Read** a book.
- Buy or make a **rain gauge** and measure after it **rains**.
- Play **Red Light, Green Light**.



Math Ideas:

- Draw **rectangles**: trace, draw and find objects around you that are **rectangles**.
- Explain **radius**.
- Draw a **rhombus**. Encourage child to copy it.
- Measure with a **ruler**.
- [Draw a ray](#).
- Show some **Roman Numerals** and places (like books) where they are used.
- Teach a right angle. [Draw a simple right triangle](#).



Science Ideas:

- **Rainbow in a jar**: Fill large jar 2/3 full of water and pour a small layer of oil on top of water (about 1-2 cm; the more oil, the longer for the color to explode through). Drop food coloring drops of different colors on top of oil. Try to get a couple drops in the same spot. The food coloring will press through the oil and explode into the water. It is beautiful!

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- Learn about rabies, [rattlesnakes](#), rabbits, rhinoceros, or reindeer.
- Catch roly polys.
- Make [rock candy](#).
- Discover rocks, robotics, rain forests, or rockets.
- Research rainbows.
- Try a [rocket experiment](#) with an old film canister and an Alka Seltzer™ .



Social Studies ideas:

- Read about Eleanor Roosevelt
- Learn about the Revolutionary War.
- Briefly discuss different religions.
- Discuss rules and laws.
- Read about Rome.
- Learn about recycling.
- Learn about Russia.
- Go to a Russian food store and buy food for dinner.



Vocations: race car drivers, radio DJ, real estate agent, recreational therapist, referee, registered nurse, repairman, reporter, restaurant manager, reverend, roofer, rock climber



Books:

- [Rain](#) by Robert Kalan
- [A Pair of Red Clogs](#) by Masako Matsuno
- [The Rag Coat](#) by Lauren Mills Round Robin by Jack Kent
- [Little Red Riding Hood](#) retold by Harriet Ziefert
- [The Rainbow Fish](#) by Marcus Pfister
- [The Red Carpet](#) by Rex Parkin
- [The Runaway Bunny](#) by Margaret Wise Brown
- [Miss Rumphius](#) by Barbara Cooney



Music Appreciation:

Reggae music



Composers:

[Sergei Rachmaninoff](#) 1873 - 1943, [Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov](#) 1844 - 1908, [Joaquín Rodrigo](#) 1901 - 1999, [Gioachino Rossini](#) 1792 - 1868, [Anton Grigorevich Rubinstein](#) 1829 - 1894



Hymn: "[Rock of Ages](#)"

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Songs:

“I’ve Been Working on the **R**ailroad”

“**R**ow, **R**ow, **R**ow Your Boat”



Movies to watch: *Ratatouille*, *The Rescuers*, *Robin Hood*

Notes: _____

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Getting Started:

Alphabet Book: [Download Alphabet Worksheets here](#)

- **Decorate Block Letters:** Glue items that begin with each letter onto large block letters as suggested in the curriculum. Keep these in the child's alphabet notebook for each letter.
- **Clip Art Pages:** Teach children to cut out the clip art pictures for The Clip Art Page; included in this book or found in magazines, or discarded books themselves, and paste them on the letter page. Once we even taped a dead ant to the "A" page, traced and painted fingernails with real polish for the "F" page, or a put a lock of hair on the "H" page. Be creative.
- **Handwriting Pages:**

Practice writing several upper and lower case letters every day. Be more concerned with quality instead of quantity. Better to spend 5 minutes on three perfect letters than 20 minutes on a sheet full of messy letters. I suggest, especially for pre-school, to practice copying three letters per day. For example, have your child copy three upper case letter A's on Monday, 3 lower case letter a's on Tuesday, both upper and lower case Aa's on Wednesday, and then see if the child can remember the letter of the week you are practicing, to write on Thursday.

Menu Ideas:

A week before beginning a letter, when you normally make your grocery list, look at the food ideas for the next letter so you can have them prepared or purchased and can grab them easily from your pantry or refrigerator. Pick one a day or as many as you want. I encouraged my kids to try new things such as ugly fruit and kiwi which they did not initially enjoy. Be very careful of choking with food and be aware of food allergies.

Field trip Ideas: Many of these ideas can be things you do in real life. Be aware and think about what you are doing, with what letter it begins, and verbalize it to your child. "Look, it is 'P' week and we are going to the Post Office!"

Bible:

Pray together every day.

Tell your child about the Bible story or idea mentioned. Instruct them to narrate the story back to you in their own words.

The ABC Bible Verses:

I truly believe that memorizing scripture is the best way to place God's words in your child's heart and mouth.

Bible Ideas/Characters:

The faults and strengths of Bible characters show believers how God can use anyone He chooses.

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The story of a Bible character can reveal history found in the Bible and the story of the character can paint a picture of how God used that person. And how He can use us. Consider acting these out or drawing pictures to illustrate.

Bible Verse Memory: Memorize a new Bible verse each week. Just five minutes each morning is enough to learn the verse by week's end. This is a beautiful way to hide God's word in our hearts as well as our children and it also keeps it on the tips of our tongues.

Missionaries: Learning about missionaries is an excellent way for children to see the big picture in terms of our faith. Attempt to show how the lives of these men and women can apply to their lives. Kids love stories.

Copy work: Children should be able to copy words from a book or page. The Bible verse copy work and the letter practice are good practice.

Character Traits: All of the character traits can be discussed on a pre-school level. Have the child use the word in a sentence and encourage them to try at least one character trait a week such as honesty (in telling something that happened) or being helpful (helping a neighbor rake leaves) or thankful (writing a thank you note). Display the character traits, yourself, as well, such as *affectionate* (snuggle up with child), *giving* (give a gift to your child) or mention when you are *dependable* (when you drive child to activity on time).

Art:

Each week, display the artwork and projects that your child produces. Put as many of the art and activities, including pictures, into your child's *Alphabet Smash* notebook under the appropriate letter. Be sure to date projects/artwork as your child completes it.

Poetry:

To do a poetry study, read poems by your selected poet. It is important that children hear poetry read aloud. Poetry can breathe life into your schooling.

Activities:

Together: Do these activities together as much as possible. Have fun with this. You only have your kids for such a short time. The activities you do together create life long memories.

Life Skills: Many of the activities listed are life skills such as first aid, cleaning, and cooking. Learning how to shut a drawer correctly may seem silly but teaching respect for doors and drawers at an early age can make a difference when children move to the teenage years.

Math Ideas, Science Ideas, Social Studies Ideas, Careers/Vocations:

At this age, the idea is not mastery but exposure or a more of an informal familiarity with terms. If there is a way to show or give hands-on examples, do it. If any of these ideas are overwhelming or cause stress, then move on.

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Books:

Try to reserve all the recommended books online at your local library a week or so before each letter. In fact, for all books recommended, try to get these at your local library first, for free.

Music Appreciation, Composers, Songs:

If there is one thing to take away from this section, it is to play music as you live your life. Listen to music when you are at home, when doing other activities, when doing nothing, or when driving in the car. Play one composer as background music for a period of time.

Movies:

This should be a fun part of your week. Pick one a week and snuggle up on the couch, pop some popcorn, and watch together.

Disclaimers:

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There may be some advertisements or comments on some of these sites that are inappropriate for young children. Please use discretion when on-line and always be in control of the computer when on-line with your child.

I do not endorse any of the ads on any of the links included. I spent hours finding what I thought were some of the best representations of examples for each activity but cannot control a company, a website's position, advertisements, or comments that are included on a website.

Some of the YouTube video links included may be too mature for a child, so be sure to watch them first before sharing. One example, for "X" week, is the eXplosion video link. While fascinating to watch, it may be troubling for some young children. Use your discernment. You know your child best.

Be careful of any activities, foods, or ideas that suggest using small pieces that could potentially be a choking hazard.

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*If you have any ideas for this book, email me at : chris@akahomeschoolmom.com !