

# ABCDEF Fish!

## Letter Awareness

Young children begin to realize that print is used to communicate and that drawings are different than print. Here are some ideas for helping them.

- Point out letters around the house—on cereal boxes, toys, or other objects.
- Read alphabet books. There are ocean- and fish-themed alphabet books, too, such as *Peanut Butter and Jellyfishes: A Very Silly Alphabet Book* by Brian Cleary.
- Let children play with magnetic letters.
- After reading a fish story like *Hooray for Fish* by Lucy Cousins or *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni, have your child or children write the letter “F” (for fish) or “S” (for *Swimmy*) with their finger on the floor, on a piece of paper using crayons or markers, with finger paint or even with something edible like pudding on a cookie.
- Write letters with your finger on their arm or leg. Sprinkle some sand or salt on a piece of paper and have them write letters in the sand or salt.
- Help children write letters with a glue stick on card stock. The sprinkle the letters with colored craft sand. The sand will harden into the glue as it dries, leaving tactile, colorful letters for your children.

