

APPLES

Unit 1

What are the parts of an apple?
How do apples grow?

APPLES

WELCOME TO THE APPLES UNIT! This two week unit is designed to help your child learn more about apples, where they come from, and the different parts of an apple. Children will be introduced apple vocabulary words (like stem and core) and size vocabulary words (large, medium, small).

The most important supply this week (aside from books) is buying 12 apples from the grocery store. You will use these same 12 apples for two weeks and need them almost every day. You will want to buy a variety of sizes and colors. At the end of the unit, you and your child can use the apples to bake with.

It is also important to buy a few extra apples for apple taste testing. The taste of apples varies greatly (think Granny Smith vs golden delicious) and apple snacking is a must.

The letter focus for this unit is Aa as in apple. One note: lower case Aa is printed **a** or **ɑ**. I like to begin children with a “stick and ball” **ɑ** and introduce the “fancier” **a** when we see it in print.

SUPPLIES

- 12 apples (4 red, 4 green, 4 yellow in varying sizes) plus a few more for taste testing
- Apple sauce
- Red, green, yellow paint
- Red, green, yellow construction paper
- Glue stick
- White construction paper OR a small dry erase board
- Painter’s tape or masking tape
- Sticky notes
- Golf tees or tooth picks
- Dot stickers

BOOKS

Remember these books are only a suggestion. Please feel free to substitute with any other apple books you have or can find at the library.

- Hello, World! How Do Apples Grow?
by Jill McDonald
- An Apple’s Life
by Nancy Dickmann
- Apple Picking Day!
by Candice Ransom
- Apples Apples Apples
by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace
- How Do Apples Grow?
by Betsy Maestro
- The Mouse’s Apples
by Frances Stickley

APPLES

Poems and songs are so important in helping children develop language skills - and reading skills later on. The poem and song for this unit are perfect for after calendar time, and to be sung/recited throughout the day.

POEM

by anonymous

Way up high
In an apple tree
Two red apples
Smiled down at me
I shook that tree
As hard as I could
Down came the apples
Mmm they were good!

SONG

by anonymous

Picking Apples

(to the tune of "Frere Jacques")

Picking apples, picking apples,
'Til we're done, 'til we're done,
Picking all the apples,
Picking all the apples,
'Til we're done, 'til we're done.

Eating apples, eating apples,
Yum, yum, yum; yum, yum, yum.
Eating all the red ones,
Eating all the green ones.
Now we're done, now we're done.

APPLES

WEEK 1

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK

What are the parts of an apple? How do apples grow?

GOALS: Kids will learn about apples, and to identify and tell some parts of an apple, where apples come from, and what we use apples for.

	MONDAY (predicting & sorting)	TUESDAY (letter name & numbers)	WEDNES. (predicting & measuring)	THURSDAY (letter name & numbers)	FRIDAY (recall & retell & shapes)
READ ALOUD	<u>Hello, World! How Do Apples Grow?</u>	<u>Hello, World! How Do Apples Grow?</u>	<u>An Apple's Life</u>	<u>An Apple's Life</u>	<u>Apple Picking Day!</u>
THINGS TO TALK ABOUT	Introduce apples: Take a closer look	Introduce letter Aa for Apples Find the letter Aa in the book	Discuss how apples grow	Reread book – review letter Aa Find the letter Aa in the book	Recall information about apples
LEARNING ACTIVITY	Math: Sort apples into three groups	Alphabet Hunt: Flashlight Find the letter Aa	Math: Compare the apples by size	Math & Art: Stamp apples in groups of 5	Math: What else is shaped like an apple? Walk around house
EASY ACTIVITY	Art: Stamp apples	Math: Apple count - Counting 1 – 5 with five frame	Art: Make an apple orchard.	Literacy: Find food that starts with Aa in the pantry	Sensory: Apple sauce sensory bin

MONDAY

OPENING

Morning calendar routine
Song & Poem

INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

“What is an apple?” Have a conversation with your child about apples. *“What are apples? How do we get apples?”*

“We are going to be learning about apples!”

READ ALOUD

Do a picture walk through the book and first look at *pictures only*. Emphasize making predictions – *“What do we think this book is about?”*
Read [How Do Apples Grow?](#)
Ask your child questions about the story while you read.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Start by getting a closer look at an apple. Be scientists and investigate the different parts. Talk about how apples feel, smell, and taste.

LEARNING ACTIVITY – SORTING APPLES

In this activity, your child will sort apples into groups by color.

Introduce the idea of sorting. *“We are going to put these apples into color groups. This is called sorting by color.”*

Lay down 3 pieces of construction paper: 1 red, 1 yellow, and 1 green. This will give your child a space to sort onto. Have them sort the apples by color.

Extension: Talk about the number of apples in each group, compare amounts, discuss each group’s size.

EASY ACTIVITY – APPLE STAMPING

Today, your child will make apple prints.

Cut one apple in half. Investigate the apple with your child. *What are the parts of an apple?* Help your child identify stem, core, seeds, skin, flesh – they do not need to memorize these vocabulary words (this is just an introduction).

Dip the apple half in paint and stamp it onto a piece of white paper. Repeat as many times as your child likes. Save these apple halves for Thursday.



TUESDAY

OPENING

Morning calendar routine
Song & Poem

REVIEW THE TOPIC

"What is an apple? What do you already know about apples?"

READ ALOUD

Reread Monday's read aloud. Ask your child to help identify what's happening on each page.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Today, you will introduce the letter Aa. Draw a letter Aa on a piece of paper or white board (upper and lower case).

"This is the letter Aa. The letter Aa is the first letter of the alphabet. It says 'aaaaaa' (like in apple). I hear the letter Aa in the words apple, animal, and ant."

Look back through the read aloud book and find the letter Aa in print (you don't need to do every page, just a few). Count them and point out that Aa has two different shapes (capital letter, small letter).

LEARNING ACTIVITY – ALPHABET HUNT

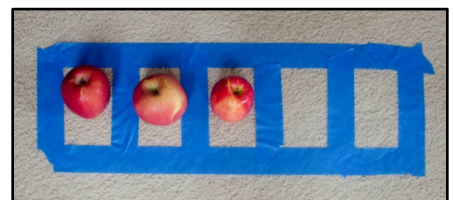
In this activity, your child will hunt for the letter Aa in your house.

Grab a flashlight for this letter Aa hunt. *"Today, we are going to hunt for the letter Aa in our house. When you find letter Aa, shine your flashlight on it."*

Look in books, photos, toys, cupboards, etc. Help your child with this activity to spy/find the letter Aa.

EASY ACTIVITY – APPLE COUNTING

Today, your child will work on counting to 5. First, tape out a five-frame on your floor. Your child will use this frame as a guide for counting. Call out a number (for example, 3). Have your child place three apples in the five-frame. Have them touch and count the apples to 3. *"How can you use this frame to show me 4 apples?"* Repeat with other numbers 1-5.



Note: Five-frames and ten-frames are an important tool for helping kids understand the value of numbers and the relationship of single digit numbers to 5 and 10. Five- and ten-frames will be critical parts of your child's conceptual understanding of addition and subtraction, and their future ability to rapidly recall math facts. These frames are so much more than basic counting.

Tip: Count with your child, help them to touch each apple as they count, model how to count, ask them to repeat your counting.

WEDNESDAY

OPENING

Morning calendar routine
Song & Poem

REVIEW THE TOPIC

"We've been learning about apples. Can you tell me the different parts of an apple?"

READ ALOUD

Do a picture walk through the book and first look at *pictures only*.
Emphasize making predictions – *"What do we think this book is about?"*
Read [An Apple's Life](#).
Ask your child questions about the story while you read.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Talk about how apples grow. Work together to remember some of the steps to growing an apple.

LEARNING ACTIVITY – COMPARING APPLES BY SIZE

In this activity, your child will compare the sizes of different groups of apples.

Grab 3 apples of varying size. Look at the apples with your child. Ask them: *"Look at all the different sizes! Can you put them in order large to small?" "How do you know which apple is the largest?"* Compare their sizes.

Repeat this process 3-4 times with different combinations of apples, talking about size and using size words.

Optional: Have your child sort all the apples by large, medium, and small.

EASY ACTIVITY – CREATE AN ORCHARD

Today, your child will make an apple orchard. Talk about how a group of apple trees is called an orchard.

On a blue piece of paper, quickly draw a few apple trees. Let your child first color the apple trees with crayons or markers (but don't have them draw apples yet!).

Pull out red, yellow, and green washable paint. Let your child dip their finger into the paint and add "finger print apples" to each tree.

Extension: Have them count the number of apples they put on each tree.

THURSDAY

OPENING

Morning calendar routine
Song & Poem

REVIEW THE TOPIC

"Apples are so delicious! What kind of apple do you like to eat?"

READ ALOUD

Reread Wednesday's read aloud. Ask your child to help identify what's happening on each page.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Today, you will revisit the letter Aa. *"Let's talk about the letter Aa."* On the top of a sheet of paper or small white board, write letter Aa.

"This is the letter Aa. The letter Aa is the first letter of the alphabet. I hear the letter Aa in astronaut, actually, and ambulance. Aa says 'aaaaa'."

Look back through the read aloud book and find the letter Aa in print (you don't need to do every page, just a few).

LEARNING ACTIVITY – COUNTING APPLES

In this activity, your child will practice counting to 5 using apple stamps.

Grab a piece of paper and your paint. Use the apples halves from Monday to stamp out groups of 5 apples. Have your child dip the apples into paint, again, and stamp them onto the paper. Work with your child to make a group of 5.

Count as they stamp, then count the group.

Repeat this process but vary the number of apples in each group. *"Can you make me a group of 3 apple stamps?"*

EASY ACTIVITY – PANTRY HUNT

Today, your child will look through the pantry to find food that has the letter Aa on the packaging. This is similar to hunting through a book for the letter Aa, but instead using items in the pantry. Find 5-10 letter Aa's.

Tip: If you haven't yet, talk about how Aa comes in two different shapes - big letter and little letter. *If your child notices that Aa also comes in the "a" shape, great! If not, no worries. They will pick that up eventually (just as they came to understand dogs come in various shapes, sizes, and styles, they'll learn that letters/fonts do too.)*

FRIDAY

OPENING

Morning calendar routine
Song & Poem

READ ALOUD

Look at the cover of the book. Point out the title, author, and illustrator (if applicable).
Read Apple Picking Day! by Candice Ransom.

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

Today, you will ask your child to “recall and retell” information about apples.

“Where do apples come from?”

“What are some of the parts of an apple?”

“What do we use apples for?”

LEARNING ACTIVITY – SHAPE HUNT

In this activity, your child will identify items with a similar shape to an apple.

Take 1 apple and examine it with your child.

“I like how apples are shaped. What else can you think of that’s shaped like an apple?” If they can’t think of anything, that’s fine!

Go on a shape hunt looking for items around the house that are shaped like an apple (ex: balls, spheres, circles). Once you find them, help your child to line them up by size, smallest to largest.

EASY ACTIVITY – SENSORY BIN

Make an applesauce sensory bin! Pour about 2 cups of apple sauce into a storage bin and let your child explore it. Smoosh it, move it, stir it, pour it.

Give them spoons and bowls to play with. This is a taste safe sensory bin. Putting a beach towel under the sensory bins will keep things cleaner. Make sure your child has a wet washcloth close by to clean their hands as needed.

Optional: add some food coloring to change the color of the apple sauce.