

Letter: 'H'

Story of the Week - "A House for Hermit Crab" By: Eric Carle

	STORY	ACTIVITY	MATERIALS	
			PROVIDED	NEEDED
Day 1	<u><i>A House for Hermit Crab</i></u>	Mystery Box, Letter Activity, Hermit Crab Craft, Learning Game	Mystery Box, Letter H, Hair, Glue, Red Pom Pom, Googly Eyes, Pipe Cleaners, Learning Game	Mystery Box Item & Pasta shell
Day 2	<u><i>A House for Hermit Crab</i></u>	Letter Hunt, Story Prop, Letter Formation	Letters, Bowl, Crab Cut-out, Crayons, Paint, Tape, Glue, Sand	
Day 3	<u><i>A House for Hermit Crab</i></u>	My House Activity, Alphabet Book, Letter Formation	Cardstock, Craft Sticks, House Sheet, Scissors, Glue, Crayons, Highlighter, Shaving Cream	Magazine and/or Store Flyer
Day 4	<u><i>A House for Hermit Crab</i></u>	Animal Habitats, Letter Formation, Address Practice	Animal Cut Outs, Paper, Glue, Crayons, Doh	

Day 1:



- Mystery Box**

Prior to this lesson, find an object to place in the box that begins with the letter "H" (Hair brush, hat, honey). Tell your child that there is an object in the box that begins with the letter of the week. Either give your child hints or have them ask questions to determine what is in the box. Once they guess the contents, have them try to guess the letter of the week.



- Story – *A House for Hermit Crab***

Prior to reading, show your child the cover of the book and read the title. Ask your child if they heard any words that begin with the letter 'H'. Read the title again announcing the sound for letter 'H'. Ask them, "What type

of house does a hermit crab live in?" Tell them you will read the story to together to find out. After reading the story, talk about how the shell was hermit crab's home. Ask them, "*Why did hermit crab need to find a new home?"* Finally, talk about how each month hermit crab met a new friend. Tell them you are going to teach them a song that will help them learn the months.

Twelve Months Song (Sung to the tune "Ten Little Indians")
 January, February, March and April
 May, June, July, and August
 September, October, November, December
 Twelve Months Make a Year!

-  **Letter Activity – Hairy 'H'**
 Show your child the lower case letter 'h' and have them trace it with their finger and say the sound. Tell your child that they are going to make a "hairy letter h" annunciating the letter 'h' sound. Have them color their letter any color they choose and then glue the strips of hair onto it.
- **Hermit Crab Craft**
 Give your child the pasta shell and have them paint and decorate (using extra craft material) it anyway they like. Now, glue the Pom-pom inside the shell and attach the googly eyes. Next help your child fold the pipe cleaner in ½ and form it into a claw. Attach this to the bottom of the shell or pom pom using scotch tape.
- **Learning Game**
 Play one of the learning games included in the beginning of the manual.

Day 2:

-  **Letter Hunt**
 Introduce 'H' as the letter of the week. Tell your child the sound it makes. Have them practice saying the sound a few times. Then show them the letter 'H's, included in your kit (there are two capitals and two lower-case of the same size). Have them look at the letters and show them which ones are capital letters and which are lower case. Then show them how to make the capital letter 'H' by tracing it with your finger. Have them practice this

several times. Repeat this process with the lower case 'h'. Finally, tell your child that they are going on their letter hunt. Walk around the house with them and tape the letter 'H' on things that begin with that sound (i.e hair brush, hutch, hanger, hamper, etc.)

-  **Story – A House for Hermit Crab**
Prior to reading the story, practice the “Twelve Months” song. After reading, the story, turn to the back of the book and read about the different sea life Hermit Crab met along the way. Most children will not want to listen to every detail about each animal, so just choose a few facts about each. Be sure to refer back to the picture of the animal as you talk about it.
- **Hermit Crab Story Prop**
Tell your child they are going to make Hermit Crab from the story. Show them the paper bowl and tell them it will be his shell. Have them paint it any color or colors they choose. Allow to dry. When the bowl is dry, attach the crab to the bottom of the bowl with his head and claws sticking out. Show them the sea animals from the story. Help them to identify each one, referring to the book as needed. Help your child cut out a green stem and attach it to the orange sea anemone. Tell them that they are going to get to use their hermit crab to help you tell the story the next time you read the book.
-  **Letter Formation**
Have your child practice forming both capital and lower case letter 'H' in the sand. Have them practice the letter sound. Model as needed.

Day 3:

-  **Story – A House for Hermit Crab**
Prior to reading, sing the “Twelve Months” Song. Also, have your child get their story prop that they made on day 2. Show them Hermit Crab's friends and help them identify each one, referring to the back of the book as needed. Place tape on the back of each one, so that they can stick it onto their hermit crab prop as you read the story. Tell them that they need to be really good listeners and help you tell the story by placing each animal on Hermit Crab's shell as you read. After reading the story, remove all of Hermit Crab's friends and ask your child to tell you the story in the

correct order using their prop. Have fun! Gently correct them if they put the creatures on in the wrong order.

- **My House Activity**

Tell your child they are going to make their house today. Give them the white cardstock and have them glue the craft sticks onto it forming their house. Show them the House Sheet with the rectangle and the two squares. Ask them to identify the shapes. Tell them they will use these shapes for a door and windows. Have them cut them out and then help them to glue the door onto the house so that it can be opened. To do this, put a fold on the left side about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and glue this fold onto the paper. Now tell them that you are going to teach them their address. Explain to them that their address is the information such as your street number, street name and city that tells where you live. Have your child open the door of their house and write their address on the cardstock under the door for them. Next, help them glue their windows on their house, allowing one of them to open. To do this, put a fold on the top $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the square and glue this fold onto the paper. Under this window you will write your child's phone number. The other window can be glued flat onto the paper. Have your child color or further decorate their house if they want. Next, have your child practice reciting their address and phone number. If they are overwhelmed, just work on one for a while until they have it memorized. Then work on the other one later. It may take some children quite a while to learn them. Place this house on your refrigerator or somewhere visible and practice it daily. The last part of this activity is to have your child go around the house and count the number of doors and windows. You can mark this down on the back or front of their house craft. Ask them, "Do we have more doors or windows in our house?"

-  **Alphabet Book**

Have your child watch you write with a highlighter a capital and lower case letter "h" on a page in their notebook. Then have them use their dot markers to trace the letter by making dots. Next, have them draw and/or cut out pictures from a magazine, grocery flyer or off the computer that begin with the letter. Be sure to have them say the name of each picture as they glue it on, placing a lot of emphasis on the 'h' sound.

-  **Letter Formation**

Have your child practice forming both capital and lower case letter 'H' in shaving cream. Have them practice the letter sound. Model as needed.

Day 4:

-  **Story – A House for Hermit Crab**
Prior to reading, sing the “Twelve Months” song with your child. While you read the story, allow your child to use their story prop like they did on Day 3. After reading, ask your child, “*Where does Hermit Crab live?*” (in his shell in the ocean or on a beach) “*Where does a bird live?*” (in a nest or a tree) “*Where does a bear live?*” (a den). Tell them the place an animal lives is their habitat.
- **Animal Habitats** – Show your child the different animal cut-outs and ask them to tell you what they are (bear, seal, frog, and owl). Divide their paper into four sections for them. Tell them they are going to draw each of these animals in their habitat or home. Talk with them about the different habitats as they work.
-  **Letter Formation**
Have your child practice forming both the capital and lower case letter ‘H’ with the dough. Have them practice the letter sound. Model as needed.
- **Address Practice** – Give your child a pretend phone and tell them that they are going to pretend to order a pizza. You are going to play the part of the pizza shop employee. Be sure to take on a silly voice to add to the fun. When they order their pizza, be sure to ask them their address and phone number.



Optional Activity – Purchase a Hermit Crab

**Additional Literature Resources:**

- **The Little House** – by: Virginia Lee Burton
- **The Napping House** - by: Audrey Wood