

# Chicka Boom Snack With Alpha-Bits Activities



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## Chicka Boom Alphabet Tree Snack

Sometimes I'll ask several parents to supply the ingredients to a snack-activity so that my Y5's can make or create a special snack.

Making a Chicka Boom alphabet tree is a fun fine motor skill for your students.

I was hoping that all the letters of the alphabet were in a box of Alpha-Bits cereal, but to my dismay when I dumped out the box, I did not find a good enough representation of the alphabet to make it a worthwhile activity for my students to try and find the letters in their name.

In fact, the letters **G, J, M, S, U, & W** were entirely missing from my box!

Instead, give a cup of cereal to each child and have them pick out 8 letters.

Later, if you want, you can give your students a graphing sheet and have them sort and then count the letters in their cup and graph them, then make a class graph of the entire box. Did you find any letters that were missing too?

You can also compare your results to mine if you want to do some more math extensions.

My husband came into the kitchen and wondered what on earth I was doing, as I had cereal spilled out all over the counter. (Our puppy Chloe was anxious hoping for a mishap.)



When I told him I was sorting cereal, he then wondered if anyone besides me even cared? I thought sorting, counting and then graphing letters in a box of Alpha-Bits was a great math extension; besides I really wanted to know if every letter of the alphabet was in the box. (The answer could not be found online.)

As you can see by my photo the ratio of letters in the box is way off, and the largest plate is the one with broken letters. Perhaps that's where the missing letters ended up.

Could the Alpha-Bit missing letter mystery be because those letters are fragile and simply break up in the package? This could make for a great discussion or writing prompt! Anyway, my husband thinks I'm crazy. Are there any other creatively crazy teachers with me? I'd enjoy a comment or two for back up.



I made two different kinds of Chicka Boom trees. One with chocolate wafer cookies (palm trunk) and raisins (coconuts) and one with pretzel rods and red grapes.

You can have both sets of ingredients available, and let your students decide which kind of tree to make, or simply pick just a few ingredients. I find with my Y5's, that usually 1/2 of them do not like raisins.

If you do opt for raisins, you may want to soak them in water the night before. It was my grandma's "secret" for making the best oatmeal raisin cookies, as the raisins turned out really moist, plump and juicy instead of dried out.

## **Ingredients & Directions:**

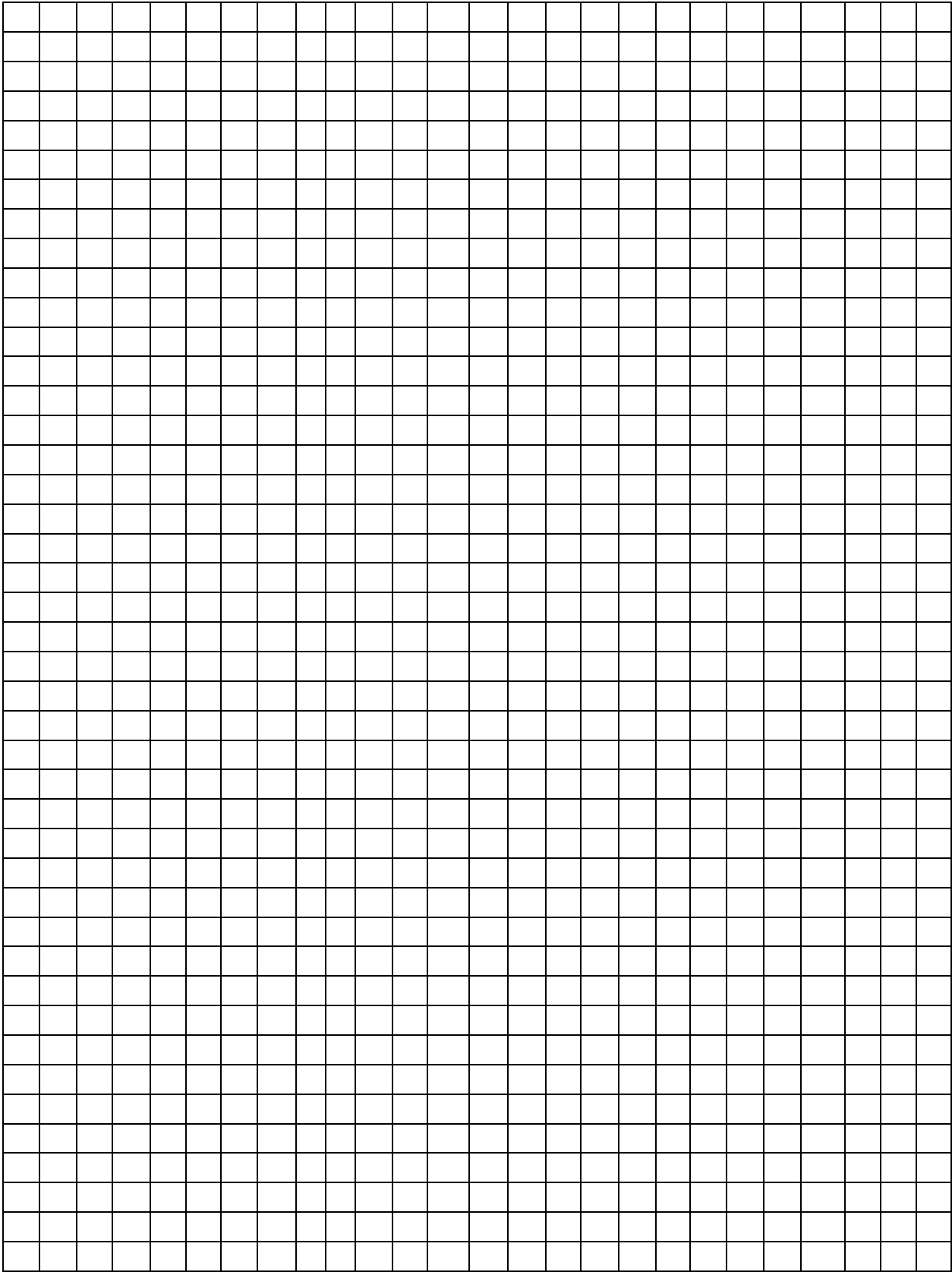
- Granny Smith apples. (Cut apple in 1/2 and then in 1/4ths. One apple will be enough for 2 children's palm leaves. Each child needs 4 apple slices. 4 palm leaves.)
- Large bunch of washed red grapes. Each child will need 3 grapes for their coconuts.
- Large box or bag of raisins. Each child will need 9 plump raisins, 3 for each bunch of coconuts.
- 1-2 bags of long pretzel rods (Chicka boom coconut tree trunk) depending on class size. (I use 2 for each student because they LOVE them, but you could cut it down to 1.)
- 1-2 packages of chocolate wafer cookies depending on class size. Each child will need 2 cookies for their Chicka boom coconut tree trunk.
- You could get a package of wafer cookies that has 1/2 chocolate and 1/2 vanilla and give your students a choice of flavors. I find that my students will usually pick chocolate 3 to 1.
- I try to include giving a choice in as many activities as I can, because I believe it is a wonderful life-skill my little ones need to learn; however, I almost always limit it to only 2, at most 3 choices, otherwise things get overwhelming for them and they can't make a decision, or waste too much time.
- 1 large box of Alpha-Bits cereal. Give each child a cup full so they can choose 8 letters to climb up the trunk. This is a nice counting activity for them. They can simply eat the rest, or do the sort, count and graph activity above with them.
- Large paper plates
- Children arrange their Chicka Boom edible alphabet tree on their plate and then eat it.

Munch and crunch away at your Chicka Boom alphabet tree today!

Remember to take some pictures so you can post them in your newsletter.

I hope you enjoy eating your way through the alphabet Chicka Chicka Boom!







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# Graphing Time

How many of each letter is in a box of Alpha-bits?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
242	125	3	172	4	16	0	12	3	0	2	4	0	5	215	136	66	95	0	2	0	3	0	62	54	15	
1	5		3											2	4		6									

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