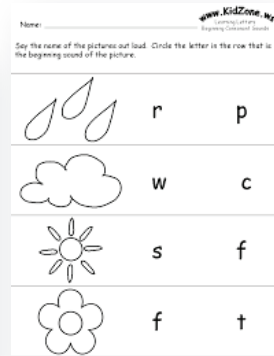
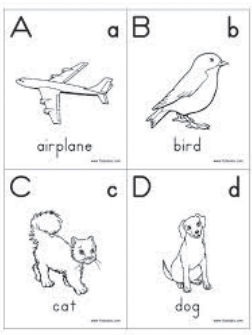
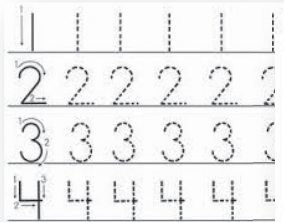


# TWO CONTRASTING APPROACHES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## Traditional Academic Focus

**123** = Learning to name, write and count numbers

**ABC** = Learning to name, sound, recite and write letters



### RESULTS

#### Positive

- ◆ Helpful in gaining elements of basic reading, writing and math skills

#### Negative

- ◆ Less enjoyment of learning
- ◆ Less independence as a learner
- ◆ Research shows poorer results after 3rd grade when the focus switches from "learning to read" to "reading to learn"



## Inquiry/Play-based Learning Focus

**Block play**  
**Measuring projects**  
**Sorting games** = Learning numbers and ALSO understanding the meaning of numbers, and the way math is used in different settings

**Reading books**  
**Using labels, letters and word games**  
**Rich conversations** = Learning letters, and ALSO understanding the power of words; getting excited about using them for meaning



### RESULTS

#### Positive

- ◆ Helpful in gaining elements of basic reading, writing and math, PLUS music, art and science
- ◆ Greater enjoyment of learning
- ◆ Research shows better success in school, especially after 3rd grade
- ◆ Increased problem solving and other skills such as sharing, confidence, and sticking to a project, that employers are increasingly looking for.

#### Negative

- ◆ None known