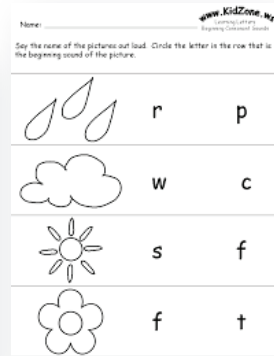
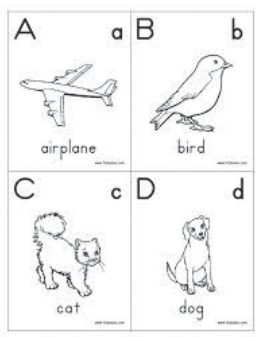
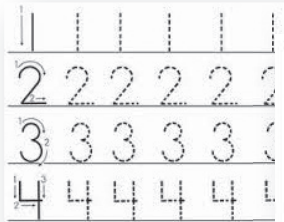


TWO CONTRASTING APPROACHES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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