



Official Hands-on-Prints Press Release
for *Around the World from A to Z*
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A brain-based alphabet book: A holistic approach to guiding children to learn (and trace) their letters by exploring the world, its varied cultures and monuments

Children's book publisher, Hands-on-Prints, has just released a brain-based alphabet book, "Around the World from A to Z." Each sand-covered letter allows children to feel the shape in their fingers. In addition to this tactile connection with each letter, the facing page contains an acrostic poem (to be read by adults) that links the letter with an activity and with a famous site.

The idea that knowledge is more effectively acquired and absorbed through making connections has become an established fact of recent research on brain development. The more connections a neuron makes, the more stable and permanent it becomes. The more a letter is reinforced – through tracing with the fingers, through evocative poems connecting the letter with cultural activities and memorable sites – the more it becomes "second nature."

The book is also based on the notion that it is never too early to learn to be part of the larger world, and that thoughtful thinkers are aware and appreciative of the wider community of cultures and diversity of landscapes that we call earth.

About the Authors:

Christinia Cheung directs a Montessori bilingual school educating children aged 3 months to 18 years, where she has seen first-hand a vital need for books that both treat subjects in greater depth and are also designed with the aim of leading children to become more reflective and more aware – of the world, of the past, and of others. Her collaboration with **Han Tran** originates in a belief in the power of storytelling as a way of engaging the mind while encouraging thoughtfulness and personal responsibility. Dr. Tran received a doctorate in Classics from UC Berkeley and is currently a lecturer at the University of Miami at Coral Gables. Her area of expertise is in classical and world myth, as well as ancient religions. She has also previously taught at The Ohio State University and the University of Oregon.

AROUND THE WORLD FROM A TO Z

by Christinia Cheung and Han Tran

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Visit our website at www.hands-on-prints.com

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