

Morton, Carlene. *Alpha Betti*. Fort Atkinson, WI: Upstart Books, 2007. 32 pages. \$17.95. (ISBN 978-1-932146-69-1)

Betti loves to pretend. But she is not the neatest child. Her room is a mess so when mom tells her to get it cleaned, she does what every busy child does—she stuffs her closet! She is constantly late getting out the door for school because she can't find anything. That day was no exception. At school, the librarian does an activity on using the alphabet to find things in the library. Each center is set up using a specific clue that will require the student to figure out where something is, for example, a book by Beverly Cleary. After being successful finding everything in the centers, Betti is given a button that says "Super ABC Hero". This gives her the idea to become "Alpha Betti, superhero, a master at ABC order." She then sets out to organize her closet based on the alphabet. Games, books, clothes and shoes are all arranged alphabetically, organizing Betti so that the next morning, she is ready to go to school on time.

This fun book is a great way to reinforce alphabetization in the library. An activity booklet is provided that includes each of the centers in the story and how to set them up. Additionally, there are dictionary, encyclopedia and interactive activities included. There is also an ABC Game and an interactive bulletin board or center activity. The activities can be used with 1st through 3rd graders. This is a good read aloud that can then be followed by doing the same activities as Betti. Activities can be structured to fit the ability levels of the students being taught. In our district, the dictionary is taught at 3rd grade, so another one of the suggested activities can be used in the center for the lower level students. A good choice for the busy librarian or paraprofessional to use!

Sandi Jordet
District Library Media Coordinator
Brush Public Schools RE-2J