

Picture Perfect!

Selected Alphabet Activities
For Practice at School or at Home



Sing the Alphabet

Sing the "Alphabet song" with the children. As you are singing, randomly leave out several letters in the song. Ask the children to point to the missing letters on the chart.



Alphabet Recipes

As the children review each letter on the chart, have them think of foods that begin with that letter. If necessary, supply a recipe for each food. Have the children help prepare and mix the ingredients for each recipe. For example, have children make applesauce for the letter "A," blueberry muffins for the letter "b," etc. You may wish to combine all the recipes into a book for the children to keep.



Beginning Sounds

Use the alphabet chart to help children understand beginning sounds. Repeat the sound of each letter and have the children point to it on the chart. Challenge children by naming additional objects that are not pictured on the chart and having them point to the appropriate letter.



A is for Apple . . .

Point to a letter on the chart and encourage the children to name words that begin with that letter. Work with your children to create a story using each of the words. Write the completed story on a large sheet of paper. Ask the children to read the story aloud with you and let them underline the words that begin with the selected letter.



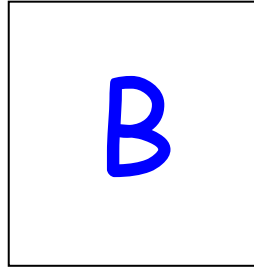
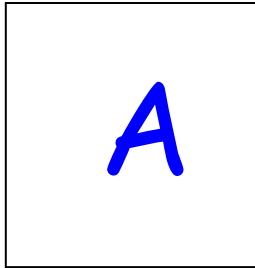
Letter Matching

Use small index cards to make a set of flashcards for uppercase letters and a set for lowercase letters. Have children match the letters on the index cards to the letters displayed on the chart.



Learning the Alphabet

Enlarge and cut apart the alphabet chart so that each upper and lowercase letter and the accompanying object can be used as a flashcard. Mount each flashcard on an index card or vellum. Mix up the flashcards and have children display them in correct order.



Alphabet Touch

Use this tactile activity to help children review letter names. Have children work in pairs. Ask one child to write a letter on another child's back, using his finger. The child who is being written on must point to the letter on the chart.

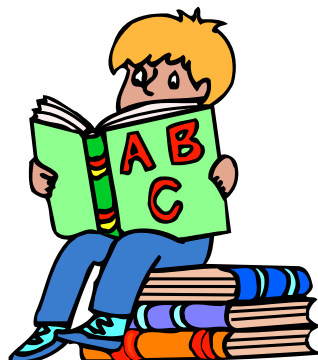
Play Dough Letters

Give children small pieces of play dough and let them use it to form each of the letters on the chart or roll out the dough and use alphabet cookie cutters. The children may wish to take turns selecting letters from the chart to make with the play dough. You may also substitute lengths of yarn or string for the play dough.



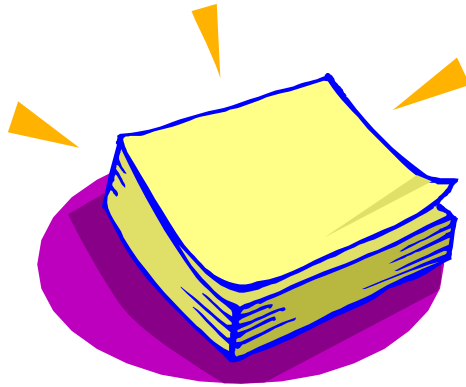
Alphabet Stories

Check out books about the alphabet from the library, such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1989), and *On Market Street*, by Arnold Lobel (Greenwillow Books, 1981). Share these stories with the children.



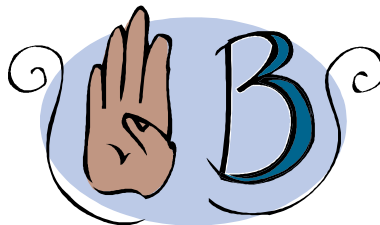
What is Missing?

Use a piece of construction paper or a self-stick paper to cover a letter on the chart. Ask the children to tell you which letter has been covered. Challenge children by asking them to name objects around the room that begin with the missing letter.



Sign Language Alphabet

Teach children the hand gestures in sign language for each letter on the chart. Check an encyclopedia for a chart showing the hand gestures.



Alphabet Tongue Twisters

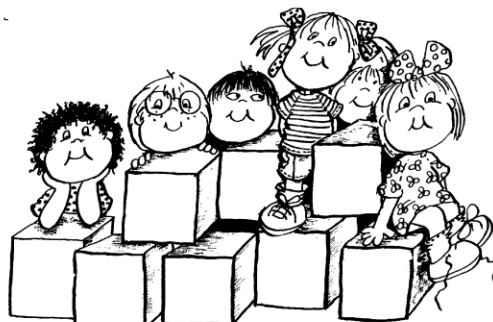
Encourage children to make up tongue twisters using the pictures on the chart. For example, "Wanda watched walruses eating watermelon in a wagon" or "Bobby bought a baby brown bear bouncing a basketball."



Peter Piper
picked a peck of
pickled peppers!
Whew!

Writing Practice

Use this activity to help children practice writing the alphabet. On 9" x 12" pieces of poster board, have children help make sand letters. Write both the upper and lowercase letters on the poster board using white glue. Before the glue has dried, have them sprinkle sand over the glue. Allow several minutes for the glue to dry and shake off the excess sand. Have children use their fingers to trace each letter.



Alphabet Painting

Let children sponge paint using sponges in the shape of letters. These sponges can be found at most craft or fabric stores. Fill a shallow pan with tempera paint and have children cover the bottom of the sponge with a thin layer of paint. Let the children gently press the sponge onto a sheet of white construction paper to make a letter print.



Searching for Letters

Give each child a magazine and let him search the pages for each letter of the alphabet. Have him cut out one letter for each letter on the chart. After he has found each letter, have him glue the letters in the correct order on a sheet of construction paper.

