

WAYS to LEARN LETTERS

... Without Holding a Pencil

1. RAINBOW TRACE the letters. Have the student trace the upper and lower case letters using 5 different color of crayons.
2. Use MAGNETIC LETTERS to sequence and match letters. Practice forming their names and simple words.
3. Use FELT LETTERS or alphabet cards to sequence and match letters.
4. Put plastic letters in a FEEL BAG or BOX and let the children guess what letter they are feeling.
5. Paint letters on an EASEL / FINGER- PAINT letters.
6. Write letters with your finger:
 - in CORNMEAL
 - in SAND
 - in PUDDING (dry or prepared)
 - in FOAM SOAP
 - in BIRD SEED
 - in SAVING CREAM
 - in COLORED SAND
7. Glue VARIOUS ITEMS (beans, noodles, cloth, cotton balls, miniature marshmallows, rice or paper) to make mosaic in the shape of letters.
8. Use PUSH PINS to outline letters
9. Build letters with Play DOUGH, pretzel, or bread dough
10. MASKING TAPE or ROPE to make letters on the floor and have children:
 - Trace letter with their feet
 - Walk or crawl on them following the path of the letter
 - Drive toy cars on them
 - Follow the shape of the letter by "painting" with a paint roller paint
 - Roll them out with rolling pins
 - Hop or jump along the letter lines

11. Make TACTILE ALPHABET CARDS for matching (visually or by touch) and trace with:

- Colored glue
- Yarn and glue
- Dry Jell-O and glue
- Puff paint
- Glue and sand, cornmeal, etc.

(NOTE: you can make the tactile alphabet cards by either cutting out alphabet shapes from cardboard and covering it with the tactile media or by "writing" the letter with glue and covering that area with the tactile media.)

12. WRITE letters on"

- Magna-doodles
- Clay / Dough trays (Styrofoam meat tray- washed with play dough/clay spread on it. Use a pencil to write letters in the clay. Store in Ziplock bags
- Black/Green boards
- Dry-erase white boards
- Paper with sandpaper under it
- Paper with a bumpy board under it

13. SORT LETTERS

14. Play "GONE FISHING" with alphabet cards. Fish for letters using a homemade fishing pole with a magnet hanging on a string. Letter cards can have paperclips placed on them.

15. Complete an ALPHABET PUZZLE of all the letters or sequence alphabet cards.

16. Make ALPHABET CARDS and CUT THEM IN HALF. Have students match them.

17. Have students match UPPER and LOWER CASE alphabet letters

18. FIND LETTERS in PRINTED MATERIAL (newspaper articles, magazines, books, on cereal boxes and other household items.)

19. HIDE LETTERS in sand, rice and beans, or birdseed and have the students find them and identify them by feeling and then looking.

20. Make an ABC BOOK by cutting out pictures from old magazines that start with a given letter.

21. SPONGE PAINT letters

22. Play "I SPY" with letters. For example: "I spy the letter "R" hiding on this page": "I spy a word that begins with the letter "S". Then have the student look to find the letter or word.

23. Play CONCENTRATION or MEMORY with letter cards. Place cards face down. Each student takes a turn by turning over two cards. If they match they are removed. If they don't match, the cards are turned over again and the next student plays. Using as many or as few matching letters that you want. (AaBbCcEeDd or the whole alphabet.)

24. Make BODY LETTERS. Give several students a letter to make. Have the students use their bodies to form the letters. They may try doing this standing or laying on the floor. Have other students guess the letter.

25. Sew letters by making your own LACING CARDS in the shape of letters or having the students sew their names onto colored burlap.

26. Play "GUESS A LETTER". Give clues about a letter and have students guess the letter. "I am thinking of a letter that is short, and comes after d in the alphabet." "I am thinking of the letter that "cat " starts with." "I am thinking of the letter that makes the sound 'dah'." Ask the students to tell the name and the sound of the letter.

27. Play "WHAT LETTER IS MISSING". Sequence alphabet cards from A-Z. Remove several letters and have students guess what letter is missing.

28. ...AND when students are ready to write on paper, do it with: CRAYONS, MARKERS, CHALK, PAINT, GREASE PENCILS, COLORED PENCILS, and a "Number 2 PENCIL"