



KT 16859 Alphabet Materials

A is for Acorn

- **Attention:** Read the book together, discussing the pictures on each page. This helps grow children's attention span.
- **Pre-Reading:** Develop children's pre-reading skills by pointing to images in the book as you label them.
- **Letter Identification:** You can also practice identifying letters by asking children to point to the main letter of focus on each page.
- **Book Knowledge:** Help grow children's book knowledge by asking him to turn the pages.

Peel & Stick Tactile Letters

- **Finger Trace:** As you name each letter, have children trace them with their fingers. This helps children practice recognizing the form of each letter and will help writing development.
- **Create & Label:** Allow children to create artwork and add labels to their pictures or sign with their names using the peel and stick letters.
- **Names:** Challenge children to create their names using the letters. Work together to spell out names of classmates.
- **Book Hunt:** Select a letter and see how many times you can find it in the book A is for Acorn.

Rubbing Plates & Crayons

- **Practice Initial Sounds:** As you rub the crayons over the paper and plates, name the objects you see. Emphasize the first sound of each object name.
- **Learn Uppercase & Lowercase:** As you rub the crayons over the paper and reveal the letters underneath, practice recognizing the upper- and lower-case letters. Have children trace each letter with their finger or a crayon.
- **Draw More:** Once you finish revealing the letters and pictures, ask children to draw another object that starts with that same letter sound.
- **Create Signs:** Work together to create signs for rooms or objects in your classroom or home.

Uppercase Alphabet & Number Dough Stampers

- **Word Stamping:** Work together to spell or copy words you see around the room, like words on signs or containers. Open the book, A is for Acorn and choose a word to create.
- **Counting Letters:** Once you finish stamping out words, work together to count how many letters you used for each word. Use the number stamps to record your final answer.
- **What Letter Comes Next?:** Pick a random letter and ask children to tell you which letter comes next in the alphabet. If they are unsure, stamp out the alphabet and help them find the answer.

- **Blind Tracing:** If you have older children, ask them to close their eyes. Pick a letter from the set and stamp it in the dough. Now ask your students to feel what you stamped, while keeping their eyes closed, and guess what letter you chose.

Lowercase Alphabet Dough Stampers

- **Find the Match:** Pick a lowercase letter from the set and challenge your children to find the corresponding uppercase letter. Invite children to practice with the letters in their first names. Once they have mastered these letters, move on to additional letters in the alphabet.
- **Create Rhyming Words:** Stamp a simple word like “Bat.” Ask children to pick a new first letter to replace the /B/, for example pick an /R/. Now ask them to stamp out R-A-T. Keep replacing the first letter and see how many rhyming words you can come up with.
- **Swap the Dough:** Brainstorm with children what material other than dough you can use to stamp out letters. Examples include wet sand, finger-paint, and mud.

Learn the Alphabet Dough Mats & Wikki Stix

- **Form & Name:** Use dough and Wikki Stix to form each letter on the cards. Ask children to identify the letters they are forming. Allow children to be more creative by forming the letters with other materials in the room. One example is using small cars to form the letters.
- **Match & Create:** Ask children to select one card and find the matching upper AND lowercase dough stampers.
- **Finish Spelling:** Work together to help children finish spelling the images on each dough mat. Have them create the remaining letters in each word out of dough or Wikki Stix.

Alphabet Mystery Box

- **Reach & Guess:** Place one object inside the mystery box without the children seeing what it is. Challenge them to feel the object without looking and guess what it could be. Give hints to help them along. For example, place the cookie inside and tell them the object starts with the /c/ sound.
- **Grab & Find:** Have children take turns grabbing an object from the mystery box. Ask them to label the object and emphasize the initial sound, for example, w-w- watermelon. Now ask them to place the object on the corresponding initial letter.
- **Letter/Sound Hunt:** Challenge children to identify materials from around the classroom that start with each letter.
- **Create Your Own:** Once children find objects around the classroom that begin with each letter, ask them to record their findings by drawing the object and labeling it.

Giant Alphabet Beads

- **ABC Rainbow:** Have children put the beads in alphabetical order. As they string beads, the rainbow will appear. Children can start by stringing the uppercase alphabet and then move on to the lowercase alphabet.
- **Name Bracelets:** Ask children to use the beads to make a name bracelet showing their own names. Challenge them even more by asking them to make bracelets with their friends’ names.
- **Sight Words:** Spell out sight words using the beads and challenge children to identify the words. Time them to see if they can identify the words more quickly as you practice.

The Alphabet Zoo

- **Spell the Sound:** Ask children to make animal noises, challenge them to try to spell the sounds they think each animal makes. You can use the alphabet beads or letter stampers.
- **Describe:** As you play, introduce new words by describing the animal habitats or the animals themselves.
- **Who Says...:** Say a letter sound, like “B” and challenge children to pick an animal that starts with that sound.
- **Line Them Up!:** Assess many levels of letter/sound and alphabetic knowledge by asking children to put the animals in alphabetical order. For older children, remove the tray before they begin working.

Soft & Washable Alphabet Blocks

- **Knock ‘Em Down:** Kids love to build towers and knock them down. Work with a child to build a tower, naming letters as they build. Be sure to hold back 2 blocks. When they are finished building the tower, show them the 2 blocks you held back and ask them to choose one block to toss as their tower to knock it down. Ask them to identify the letter or letter sound on the block they chose to toss.
- **Block Labels:** Use the soft blocks to create labels for structures the students are making with the other blocks in your block area.
- **ABC Tower:** Practice your ABCs by building towers using blocks in alphabetical order.

Sift & Find Alphabet Shells

- **Find Your Letter:** Bury the shells in your sand table and challenge children to carefully sift the sand to find the shell that has the first letter of their name. As children develop their letter knowledge, challenge them to sift and find the other letters in their name.
- **Animal Match:** Using the animal figures from the animal zoo, ask children pick an animal and then sift through the sand to find the shell that matches the animal.
- **Shell Patterns:** Practice making color patterns with the shells like red/yellow/red/yellow. Once the patterns are built, ask children identify the letters or letter sounds on each shell they used to create their pattern.
- **Pick & Draw:** Have children sift and find a shell. Once they find a shell, ask them to draw a picture that includes an animal or other object that starts with that letter.

Magnetic Fishing Set

- **Reel Them In:** Put the foam letters out on the ground or in the water table. Ask children to catch letters, ask them to identify the letter, the letter sound, and maybe even something in the room that begins with that letter.
- **Catch a Friend:** Work with a friend to fish for the letters to spell each other’s names, sight words, or even words they know from your native language.

Learning Letters Activity Leaves

- **Beginning Sounds:** Place the leaves faceup on a flat surface. Call out words that begin with the same letter (for example, ball, bus, and basket) and prompt children to find the letter that matches the beginning sound.
- **Letter Match:** Place the uppercase leaves facedown. Give each child an index card featuring a different lowercase letter. Have children turn the leaves over until they find a match.
- **Turn & Say:** Place the leaves face down on a flat surface. Invite a volunteer to turn over a leaf and say a word that starts with the letter. If they can come up with a correct answer, they get to keep the leaf. If not, turn the leaf back over and invite another volunteer to repeat the activity

English Alphabet Books

- **Partner Reading:** Pair children and ask them to help one another read a book.
- **Book Extension:** Pick a book and read it together as a group. Once you are finished, challenge children to create their own additional pages. If they need ideas of what to draw on their pages, allow them to explore the room.
- **Read & Stamp:** Allow children to select a book to read at the table while they have some dough and the letter stampers. As they read, ask them to try to stamp out a few words from the book.

Adventure Carpet Forest Animals

- **Habitats:** Engage in pretend play with the animals while you discuss where each lives-- or its habitat. Discuss the similarities and differences between the animal habitats and your own habitats. You can even take a walk outside to observe which animals live near you.
- **Animal Names:** While you play, discuss the different names we have for animals. Use examples in both English and your native language. Emphasize the initial sounds /E/ E-agle. Ask children if they can identify which letter makes that sound.

Kit Material Combination Activities

- **Giant Alphabet Beads & Newborn Doll:** Using giant alphabet beads from this kit along with the baby dolls from the social emotional kit, encourage children to name the babies. Once you have decided on names for the babies, practice spelling the names using the giant alphabet beads.
- **Alphabet Stampers, Dough, and Fry Bread:** Using the alphabet stampers & dough from this kit along with the book Fry Bread, encourage children to create pretend fry bread with the dough and then stamp out the words "Fry Bread" with the alphabet stampers.