

ALPHABET GAMES

LETTER CONCENTRATION

You will need some small 3 x 4 inch blank cards for this game.

- Pick six or seven letters that your child is familiar with and print the letters on two cards, each.
- Mix up the cards.
- Then turn the cards face down on a table.
- Take turns with your child, turning over two cards.
- When you have a match, you get to keep the card set.
- If you do not have a match when you turn over two cards, you must turn them back over and lose your turn.
- It is important to remember where each letter was when turning over cards.
- The person with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

LETTER BINGO

- Make a set of letter bingo cards for your child using the letters that he knows and the new ones he is learning.
- Rather than using the Bingo letters at the top of the cards, you may want to make each column a different color at the top.
- This way your child can be concentrating on the letters in the game rather than mixing them up with the letters at the top.

LETTER LOTTO

This is a letter game your child can play by herself.

- Make two cards 9 x 9 inches square.
- Using a pencil and a ruler, mark the squares into 9 - 3inch squares.
- Choose nine letters your child is familiar with and write them in the nine squares on both cards.
- Take one of the cards and cut out the nine small squares.
- Give the large card to your child and the stack of small cards.
- Have your child pick up a small card and find its mate on the large card.
- Continue until all of the letters are matched up.

FLASHLIGHT LETTERS

- Get a flashlight and turn off the lights in a room with your child.
- Using the flashlight, make giant letters on a wall.
- Have your child name the letters that you make.

LETTER BAG

You will need some alphabet magnet letters for this game.

- Take a small bag and place two letters in the bag, that your child is familiar with.
- Call out one of the letters and have your child reach into the bag and find the letter called.
- When your child is able to distinguish between two letters, start putting three letters in the bag and so on, up to five letters.

FLOOR LETTERS

- When your child is learning a new letter, take masking tape and create the letter on the floor.
- Let your child play on the letter, however he wishes.

LETTER SEARCH

- Spread out an old newspaper ad section.

- Sit with your child and name a letter.
- Have her point at any of this letter she finds.
- Circle the letters as she finds them.
- How many did she find?

LETTER CLOTHESLINE

You will need a small clothesline and some snap-type clothespins for this activity.

- String up a small clothesline between two straightbacked chairs. (Position it near a wall so that it's not out where others could run into it.)
- Take 10 clothespins and write a different letter on each clothespin. Place the clothespins on the line.
- Cut out sock or shirt shapes from construction paper and write one of the same letters on each article of clothing. Place the paper cutouts in a small basket.
- Let your children take turns matching the letters on the clothes to the letters on the clothespins.

Variation: Write capital letters on the clothes and lower case letters on the clothespins for children who are familiar with the two cases.

FINISH THE LETTER

- On a piece of paper draw partial letters, leaving off small sections.
- Give your child the paper and a pencil and have her finish the letters.

PLAY DOUGH LETTERS

- Give your child some play dough.
- Show him how to roll the dough to make long snakes.
- Now using the rolled dough, encourage him to create a chosen letter.
- If child is unfamiliar with the letter let him see the letter written out.

LETTER MAIL

This is a fun game for one or more children.

- Take three small boxes with lids and cut slits in the tops long enough to accommodate small envelopes.
- Tape a card on the top of each box with a large capital letter written on, each one different.
- Now, take 15 small envelopes and write one of the letters on five envelopes and each of the other letters on five envelopes.
- Mix up the envelopes and place them in a bag.
- Let your child pretend to be a mail carrier and deliver the envelopes to the correct mailboxes.

Variation: For older children write capital letters on the boxes and lower case letters on the envelopes.

SILLY SENTENCES

- When studying a letter, have your child create a silly sentence with each word beginning with the letter. Example: "Silly Sarah sold silver spoons and shooting stars."
- Write the sentence on the bottom of a piece of paper and have your child illustrate the sentence.
- Place a large letter "S" at the top of the paper.

Variation: Save each paper as your child learns new letters and make a Silly alphabet book for her to read to others.

LETTER BASKETS

- When introducing a new letter to your child, set out a laundry basket with a letter card

attached to the front.

- Help your child find items in your home that begin with the sound of the featured letter.

ALPHABET BOOK

Help your child make their own alphabet book. Fold seven sheets of paper and staple them together in the middle. Starting on the second page, draw a line across the middle of each page and write an alphabet letter at the top of each box. Give the book to your child and help him find pictures of objects that begin with each letter. Next, have him tear or cut the pictures from magazines and glue them onto the appropriate pages. This project will probably take a week or more to finish. Encourage your child to "read" his alphabet book to friends and family.