



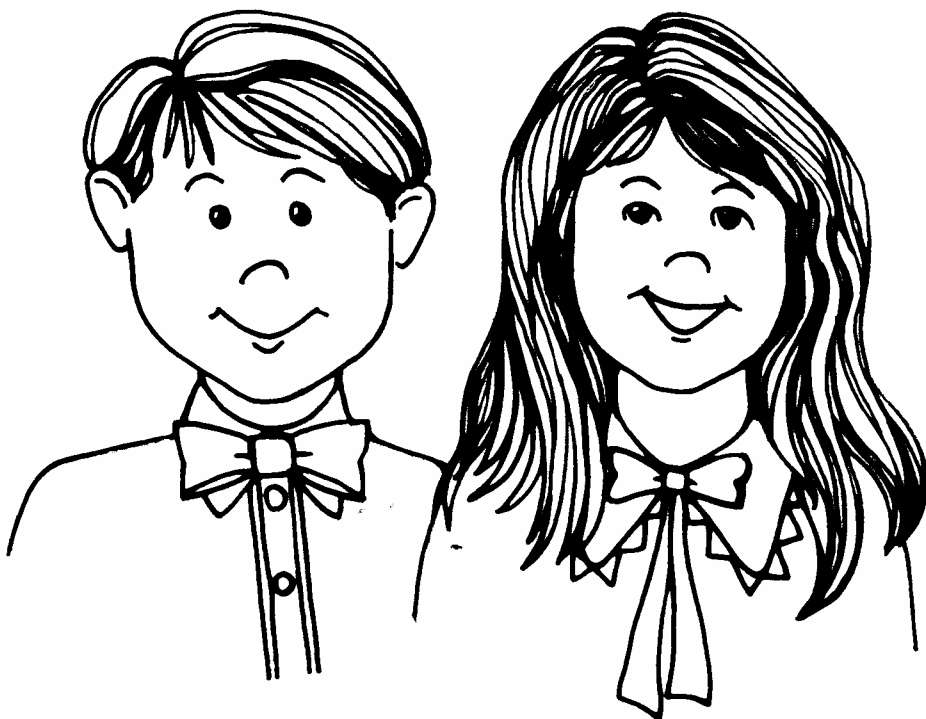
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Tracy Jarboe & Stefani Sadler

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Alphabet

A Thematic Cross-Curricular Unit



Created By:
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&
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Making the Most of Books

This themed correlation of activities is intended to assist primary educators in extending and integrating student learning. We have chosen a format that addresses a wide variety of learning styles and approaches. All of the activities included in this themed packet are designed to meet the educational standards in an exciting and innovative manner. We have chosen our favorite classroom activities all of which are based upon quality children's literature. The following components have been included to offer you a wide variety of activities to choose from.

Poem/Song/Rhymes – There are numerous poetry applications for use in the primary classroom including: shared reading, pocket chart center, writer's response prompt, and sponge activities. Thematic poetry and extension activities have been provided to enhance the learning process.

Some ways in which to use thematic poetry include:

1. Use a thematic pointer to track and count words.
2. Use alphabet cookies or crackers as an edible manipulative to count words or sentences.
3. Write a poem on sentence strips and then cut in between the words to separate them. Have the students rebuild the poem using these words and a pocket chart. Cut or die cut small squares from colored acetate. Use these square highlights to point out specific concepts of print. For example: Place the blue squares on all of the capital letters, the red squares on all of the periods, and the yellow squares on words that rhyme.

Student Book – Individual student books are a wonderful way to promote independence and fluency in reading. Student books can be used as independent seatwork, a center activity, or a homework connection. The student book provided in this packet reads:

_____ is for _____. The student is to complete each page by filling in a letter and a word that begins with that letter. A book could read like this: A is for apple. M is for monkey. T is for train.

Class Book - Class books are commonly used to extend a piece of literature and to encourage students to synthesize concepts. Using a book containing 26 pages, one for each letter of the alphabet, and small letter cards; have each child spell their name on the alphabet letter page that begins their name. For instance: Michelle would glue her name on the Mm page as follows:

Mm

M i c h e l l e

After the each student in the class has placed his/her name in the book, revisit each page and write how many children in the class have a name that begins with that letter. For instance: There are 4 children in the class whose name begins with M. There is one child in the class whose name begins with W.

Word Play – This activity is to be used in a classroom center or for a choosing activity.

Writing – Writing opportunities allow students to extend the learning process while enhancing comprehension. The use of writing connections is paramount to successful student achievement. A writing prompt and a writing page have been provided for use in centers, writer’s workshop, journals, and guided writing. Student writing can be easily compiled and bound to make a class book.

Math – A math mat and activity are provided to explore principles of numeration, algebra and mathematical functions.

Science – This is an important component that emphasizes prediction, exploration, observation, data analysis, synthesis, and discovery.

Art – Art projects provide additional opportunity to extend literature and learning by using various media and accessing student creativity.

Recipe – Hands on learning is an essential element to any curriculum and recipes lend themselves to scientific inquiry, math, and literacy development.

Home Connection – A take home activity has been included to encourage families to share in the learning experience.

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ABC Schoolhouse

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Website: www.abcshoolhouse.com

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Alphabet Fun

Literature List:

Alphabears - Kathleen Hague

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom-John Archambault

ABC I Like Me - Nancy Carlson

The Absolutely Awful Alphabet - Mordicai Gerstein

Alphabet City - Stephen Johnson

Eating the Alphabet - Lois Ehlert

Martha Blah Blah - Susan Meddaugh

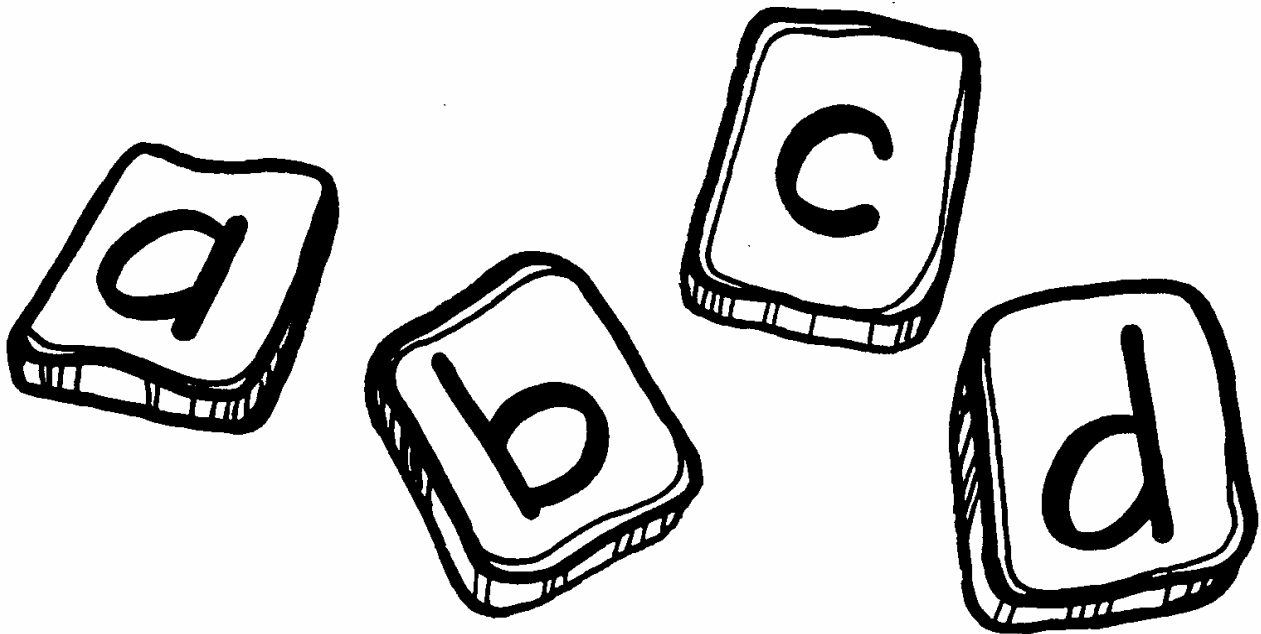
The Letters are Lost - Lisa Campbell Ernst

Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten - Joseph Slate

Old Black Fly - Jim Aylesworth

Alphabet Poem

I can say the "ABC's"
I can spell and I can read
Letters alone make sounds I know
Letters together make words and so
Words make sentences short or long
Then stories and books and words to a song
It all starts with letters like A, B or C
Letters are tools and the builder is me!



Letter Song

(To the tune of "Jingle Bells")

A-B-C-D-E-F-G

Sing along with me.

H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O-P

I'll learn my ABC's.

Q-R-S-T-U-V

I'll practice and you'll see;

W-X-Y and Z

I will learn to READ!

The Name Game

(To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If this letter is in your name, (hold up letter card)

clap your hands (clap-clap)

If this letter is in your name,

clap your hands (clap-clap)

If this letter is in your name,

Then stand and shout "Hooray!"

If this letter is in your name,

clap your hands (clap-clap)

(Choose a new letter and a new action.)

If this letter is in your name,

stomp your foot...

If this letter is in your name,

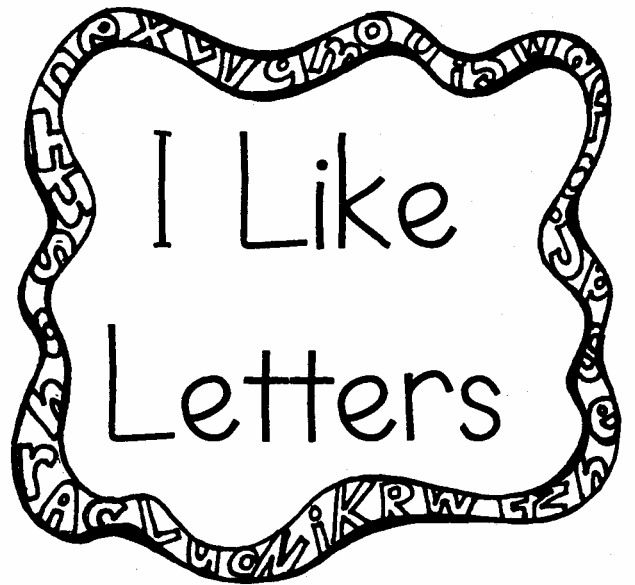
snap your fingers...

If this letter is in your name,

touch your toes...

is for

is for



_____ is for _____.

by _____

Our Book of Names



A class book by: _____

Word Play

Alphabet I Spy

Using alphabet letter cards (Use a focus letter, groups of letters such as vowels, or the entire alphabet), place them around the classroom on or near pictures or objects that start with each letter. Students try to find the letters and identify the letter name, sound and object/image labeled. Students verbalize as follows:

"I spy letter "S". "S" says ssssssss. "S" is for "sink"."

This game may be played total class, as a transition activity, or set up as a center or small group activity.

Math Activities

Try any of the following math activities using the math mat pattern provided.

Symmetry:

Photocopy an alphabet math mat pattern on construction paper (any color) for each student. Fold the mat in half lengthwise so the center dividing line is visible to the students. Pour small amounts of tempera paint on a paper plate--one color per plate. Provide a scoop of Alphabits Cereal, alphabet cookie cutters, letter shaped sponges or alphabet rubber stamps. Encourage students to make prints by dipping the letter shape in to the paint and then onto the math mat. Carefully model the concept first; demonstrating that symmetry means whatever they print on one side must be printed exactly on the other side.

As a variation print a pattern on one side, then, while the paint is still wet, fold the other side over and rub gently to reproduce the pattern.

Patterning:

With the math mat use alphabet stickers or stamps to make a pattern. Remember that the sticker or stamp sequence must be repeated correctly at least three times to make a pattern.

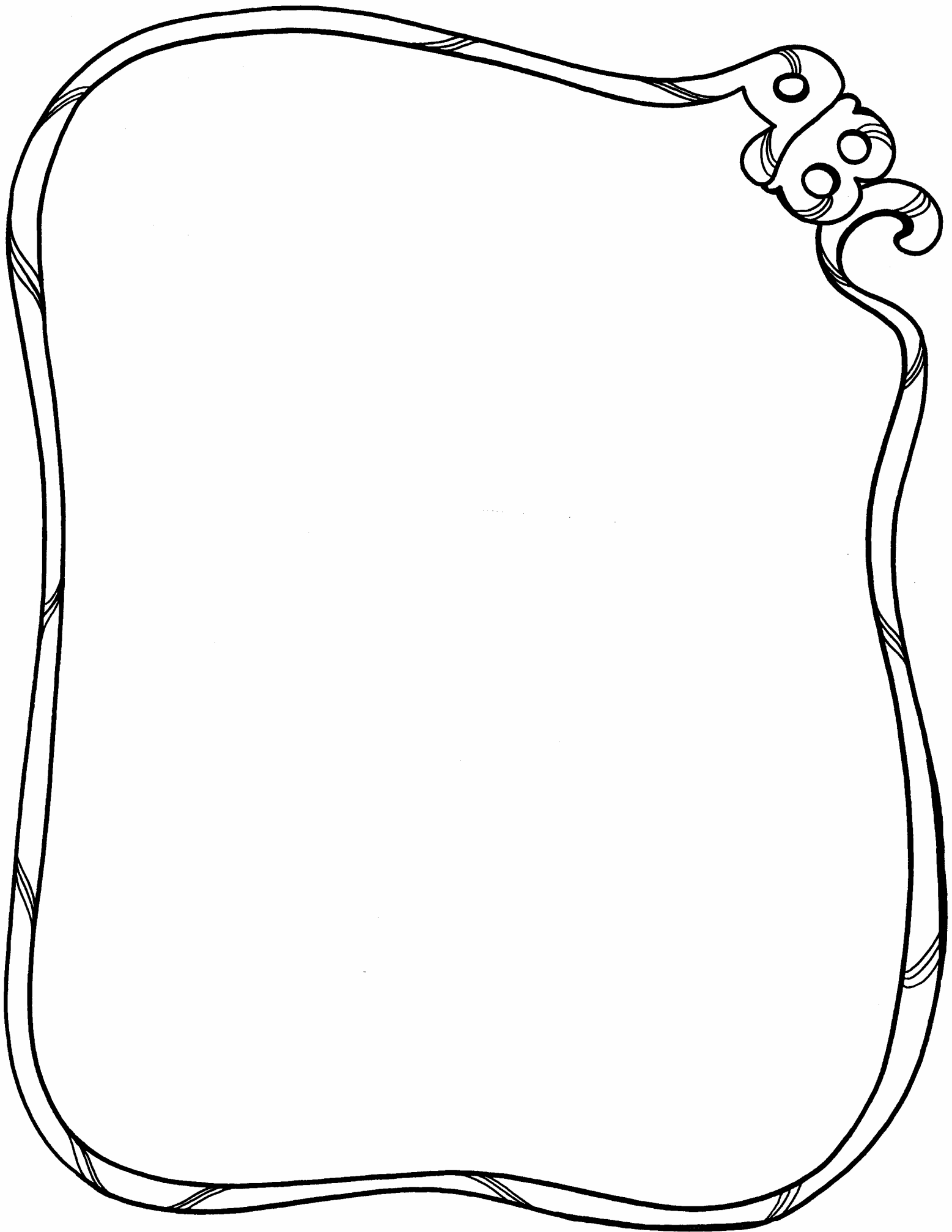
Sorting & Classification:

Use math mats and manipulatives to sort and classify. An example would be to give each student a portion cup full of Alphabits Cereal or small plastic alphabet letters. Ask them to sort the cereal by letter. Compare and discuss the results each student has. A helpful tip would be to laminate the mats so that you could use them again and again.

As a variation ask each student to make a set of letters that are in his or her name from Alphabits cereal. Who found the most? How many found all of the letters? Could anyone spell his/her name more than once?

Measurement:

Use alphabet manipulatives (foam, die-cut, magnetic, or plastic letters) to practice non-standard measurement. For example, if you are using the foam letter M, count how many M's it would take to walk up the door or across the table. Try using a standard ruler to measure the height and width of the different alphabet manipulatives.



Addition and Subtraction:

Use the math mat as a story backdrop to build addition or subtraction sentences. An example would be to use Alphabits Cereal and the alphabet math mat to make sentences such as.

The Alphabet Monster was very hungry. He found 8 Alphabits and ate 5 of them in one big gulp! How many Alphabits are left? $8 - 5 = 3$

The Alphabet Monster had three Alphabits, but he wanted more. He looked and looked and found three more in the cupboard. How many Alphabits did he have altogether? $3 + 3 = 6$

Use a manipulative that best matches the teaching theme. These could include educational themed counters, edible snacks, or counting items found at the local discount or party supply store.

Graphing & Tallying

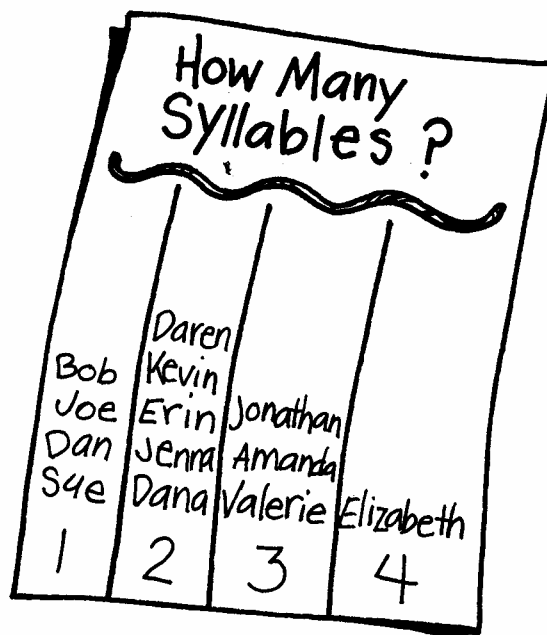
Use the students' names for a variety of graphing opportunities:

Graph by the number of letters in each student's name.

(With more advanced students, graph using first and last name.)

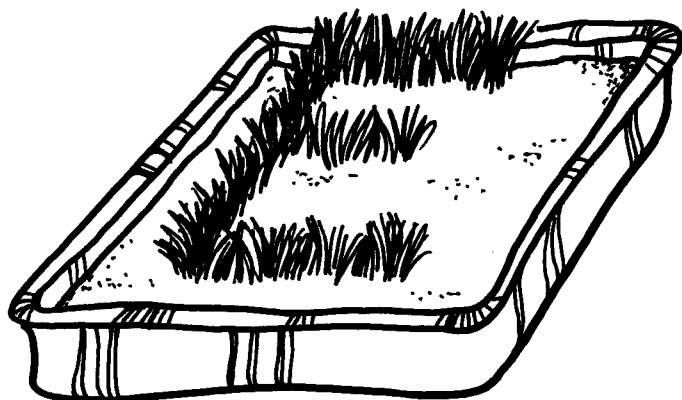
Graph by the first initial of each student's name.

Graph by the number of syllables in each name.



Science Activity

Incorporate the alphabet into a Living Things or Life Cycles unit. Use a baking pan (8"x8" works well) and fill it with potting soil. With your finger or a craft stick, make a 1/2" depression in the shape of a letter. Sprinkle seeds into the groove and cover over with potting soil. Water gently. Very gradually, as the seeds begin to sprout, the letter shape will appear. Students are very enthusiastic about predicting what the mystery letter will be. Continue the process with each focus letter trying a variety of seeds (alfalfa, grass and radish seeds work well and germinate quickly). For more advanced students, use a rectangular pan and plant words.

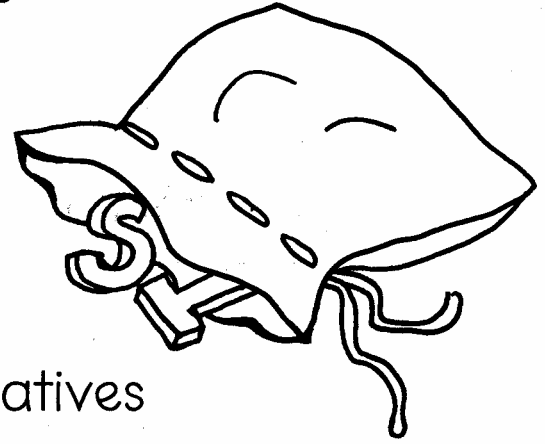


Alphabet Feely Bag

You will need:

A bag (anything opaque)

One or more alphabet manipulatives



1. Place the letters in the bag – you may use one letter, the letters in a child's name, or letters that spell a key word.
2. A child reaches in the bag and tries to identify the letters using only the sense of touch.

Initial Pin

You will need:

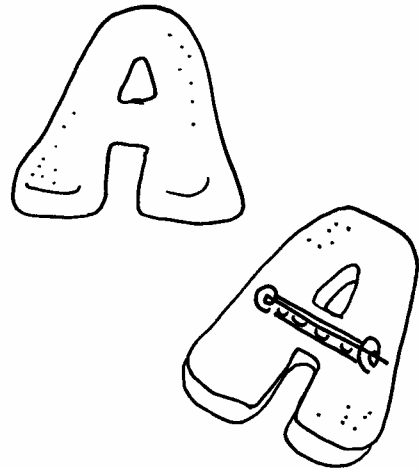
Sawdust Dough

- 1 cup of fine sawdust
- 1/2 cup of flour
- 1 Tbsp. Liquid starch
- 1 cup water

Paint

Pin Back

Glue



1. Press sawdust dough into first initial cutter.
Gently remove the cutter.
2. Allow two days to dry. (Dry time depends upon thickness).
3. When dry, paint or decorate.
4. Glue on pin back. (hot glue or tacky glue works best).

Art Activity:

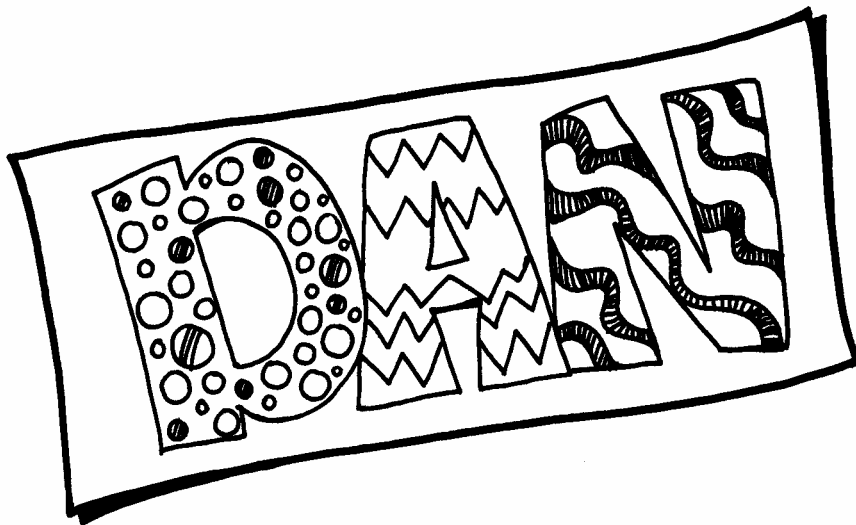
You will need:

9"x18" white construction paper

Markers

assorted rubber stamps/pads or stickers

Begin by writing the student's name on the construction paper in block letter style as large as possible. You may also spell out each name with die cut letters, if available. Encourage students to decorate the letters, trying to make each letter totally different. Model a variety of styles such as: stripes, dots, overlapping stickers, stamps that are colored in, waves, zigzags, etc. When complete, share and display the posters.



Initial Necklace

You will need:

3/4 cup of flour

1/2 cup salt

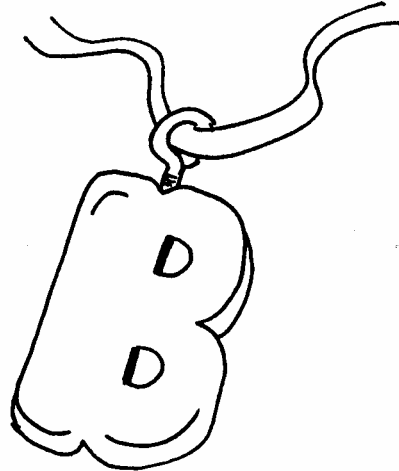
1/2 cup corn starch

Warm water

Screw eye

Ribbon or yarn

Paint



1. Blend dry ingredients in a bowl.
2. Slowly add warm water until mixture becomes slightly hard.
3. Knead for 2 minutes.
4. Spread clay on waxed paper about 1/4" to 1/2" thick.
5. Use cutter for chosen initial. Cut out letter, remove excess clay, and allow to air dry.
6. When fully dry, paint as desired, add screw eye to the top of the letter. Lace with ribbon or yarn through the screw eye.

Recipe for ABC Kabobs

You will need:

- Apple slices
 - Banana slices
 - Cantaloupe Chunks
 - Skewer
1. On waxed paper, lay out the fruit in a pattern--ABC order.
 2. Add the fruit to the skewer, one piece at a time, until it is full.
 3. If not serving immediately, it is helpful to dip the fruit in lemon juice to preserve the color and freshness, then refrigerate.



Apples, Bananas & Cantaloupe

Edible Names

You will need any of the following or a combination of items.

American Cheese slices

Tortillas

Bread

Fruit leather

Firm Jello

Pound cake slices



Simply cut the letters to spell a given name or initials. Serve alone, on a bed of lettuce, or with other items.

Home Connection

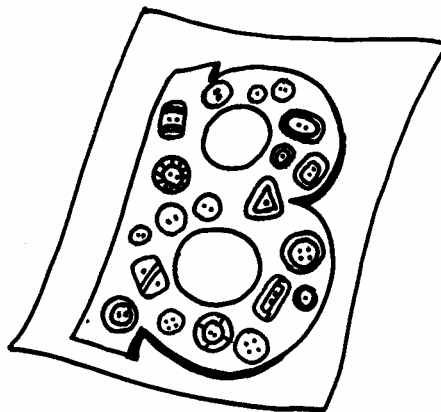
Alphabet Collections

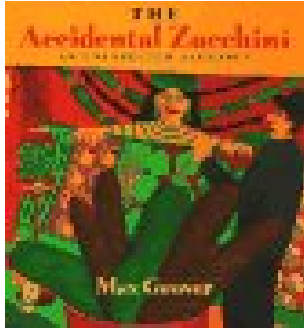
Send home a grid labeled with each letter of the alphabet. Ask students to draw or write something that begins with each letter. This may be assigned thematically--fish, insects, flowers. Indicate that there is no penalty for blank spaces for difficult letters (X, U, Q, and so on).

Alphabet Posters

Send home an 8 1/2"x11" sheet of white construction paper. Draw a block style outline of the focus letter or one chosen by the student. The family decorates the letter by drawing, pasting magazine pictures or actual objects that begin with the letter. An example would be "B"--buttons, beans, beads....

Model a sample and encourage variety and creativity.

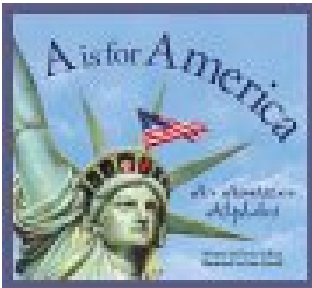




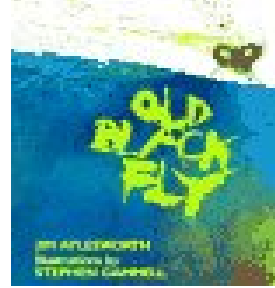
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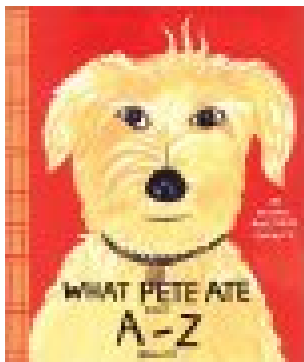
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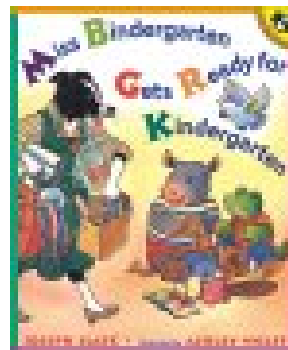
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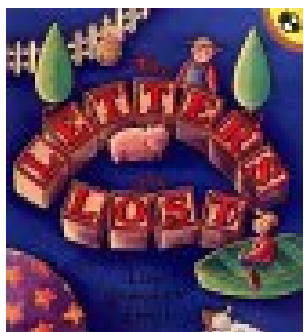
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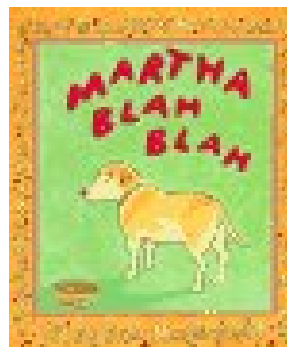
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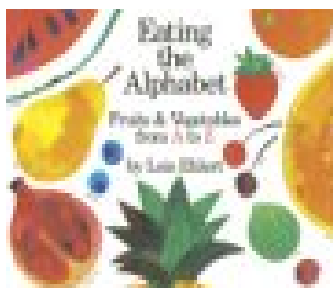
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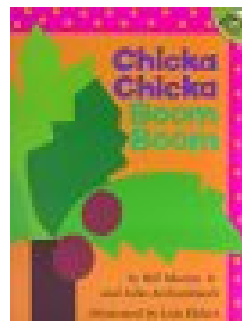
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