

Literacy Centers

Letter wheel

Learning letters using this letter wheel is a special treat for your little ones.

Materials

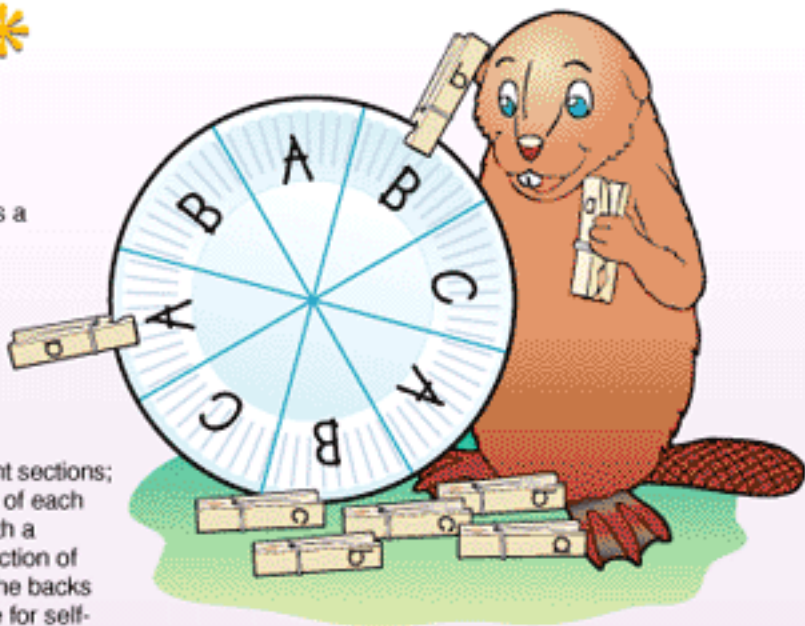
paper plate
markers
clothespins

Preparation

Use a marker to divide the plate into eight sections; then write an uppercase letter near the rim of each section. Label each of eight clothespins with a lowercase letter to match the letter on a section of the plate. (If desired, you may color-code the backs of the clothespins and the back of the plate for self-checking.)

Activity

Show students how to find a lowercase match for an uppercase letter on the plate and clip on the matching clothespin. Then encourage students to visit the literacy center to complete this activity.



Letter Matchups

Matching letters is fun when students get to use a marker to show off their skills.

Materials

paper
marker
laminating supplies

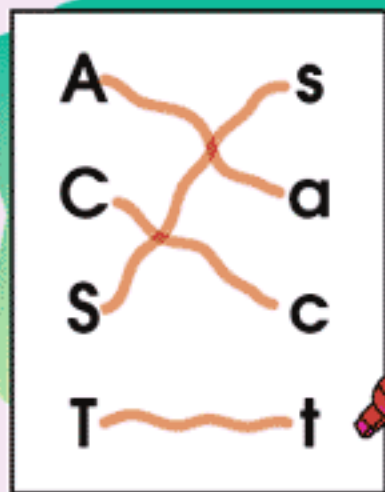
wipe-off markers
paper towels

Preparation

Write four uppercase letters down the left side of a page and four corresponding lowercase letters in random order down the right side. Use die-cut letters for a colorful alternative. Laminate this page and others like it. Place them in the literacy center along with wipe-off markers and paper towels.

Activity

Discuss with students how to draw lines to match uppercase and lowercase letters on the page. Explain how they can confirm their answers using displays on your classroom walls and then clean the page for the next child's use.





Newspaper Search

Highlighters help students focus their attention on featured letters in this newsprint idea.

Materials

pages from a newspaper
construction paper letter
cutouts
glue
highlighters

Preparation

Glue a letter cutout near the top of each newspaper page. Attach these pages to a wall in your center and put a few highlighters nearby.

Activity

As children visit this center, have them name the large colorful letter on the newspaper. Then have them find that letter elsewhere on the newspaper page and highlight it each time they find it.



Nailing Letters

This tactile center will draw students in again and again.

Materials

permanent marker
8" foam squares
basket
golf tees
resealable plastic bag
toy hammer

Preparation

Use the marker to write a large letter on each foam square. Store the squares in a basket along with a bag of golf tees and the hammer.

Activity

Introduce this activity to reinforce the formation of the letters your children are learning. Show children how to use the hammer to nail tees into each space along the lines of a foam letter. After each child completely covers his letter with tees, have him share his square with other children and tell them about the letter and its form. Have each child remove the tees from the foam he used and return them to the bag before leaving the center.

