

Baby TALK Preschool Activity

LANGUAGE ARTS - LITERACY

Letters in My Name are Special

- Preparation
- Assessment
- Affiliation
- Observation
- Developmental Behaviors
- System of Support
- Baby Talk System of Care
- Reflection – On – Action
- Documentation

Purpose

Letters are abstract symbols that represent each character in the alphabet. More confusing than that, each letter has two ways it can be presented – capital and lower case. Letters are then used to create this special code that readers use called print. After your child is able to distinguish print from pictures, she begins to pay closer attention to the details of print. She will pay attention to the difference in lines. Variations of lines include straight, curved, horizontal, vertical, diagonal, long and short. The directionality of all these lines is very important. After all, a lower case b, d, and p are all made up of one long line attached to a small circle at one end. Mastering the code we call the alphabet takes time. One of the first and most important written words for your young child is her name. That's why it is helpful to start here!

Materials

- Paper
- Marker
- Scissors

Let's wonder together

What do you think your child knows about letters and the alphabet?
Where has your child seen her name written in print?

Activity

Write your child's name across two pieces of paper.

Use the scissors to cut apart each letter from ONE of the names. Leave the second name together as written.

Talk to your child about how her name is written the same way every time. Point to each letter and name it.

Give her the letters that have been cut apart from her name and have her match the individual letters to the corresponding letters in the intact name.

Name the letters as your child places them over or below the matching letter.

If she has difficulty matching letters at first, provide her some assistance in noticing the details of each letter. You may try verbal clues such as "this letter has a circle with a line on the side going down and around like a hook," having her trace the letter with her pointer finger before looking for the matching letter, or holding up two letters and asking the child "which one looks the same as the first letter?"



**Demonstrate
an emerging
knowledge and
understanding
of the alphabet**

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EXTENSION FOR OLDER PRESCHOOLER:

Ask your child to identify each letter as she matches it to the corresponding letter in her name.

Encourage her to attempt putting the individual letters in order without the whole name shown.

Your child can then use the paper with her whole name written to see if she correctly sequenced the letters in her name.

She can practice writing her name after putting the letters in the correct order.

What do you think about this?

- What did your child find challenging about this activity?
- How were you able to help your child succeed at this activity?
- What is the difference between recognizing a letter and identifying a letter?
- How can you support her in recognizing and identifying letters?
- Why do you think your child will likely identify the letters from her name before other letters?

Application for Social Emotional Development

Developing an eye for identifying letters can be challenging. It is important that you remain calm and avoid becoming upset or frustrated with your child when a new skill is not immediately mastered. Provide words to help her understand when she feels frustrated using words such as, "I see you squeezed your eyes closed and tightened your fist. That shows me you are becoming frustrated." When you notice frustration, it is important to evaluate the situation and make a decision about how to proceed. Sometimes, it is okay to proceed with a little encouragement like "I know this is hard. I like that you are trying even when it is hard." Other times, you may need to reduce the difficulty of the task or suggest you try again at a later time when she may be in a better state to participate. Consider asking your child, "Would you like to try this now or wait until later to try again?" By supporting your child through her feelings, you are helping her develop social/emotional skills that will benefit her for a lifetime.

ILLINOIS EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARD(S):

- Primary** (4.B) Demonstrate an emerging knowledge and understanding of the alphabet.
Secondary (30.A) Identify and manage one's emotions and behavior.