



please

To: Mrs

## Chapter 4

# Literacy

**L**iteracy is the ability to read with understanding and to write effectively to convey ideas and thoughts. Literacy development begins way before children enter school. At home, one of the easiest ways to enrich your children’s literacy experience is to read to them daily. All children love a good story, and books are wonderful ways to bring families together. You can further nurture your children’s early literacy skills through playful activities that lay the groundwork for writing and reading. The ten activities in this chapter offer creative ideas to encourage alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, and writing.

The **Alphabet Mystery Box** is a simple crowd pleaser. Children get to use their sense of touch as they search for letters in the box. The **Magic Letter Search** is another delightful one to help children learn letters and sight words, and it uses a regular household item — paper towels! Or, make some **Aluminum Alphabet** together. Children can hone their fine motor skills as they roll and twist aluminum foil to make the letters of the alphabet.

Which activity will you and your children try today?

# Alphabet Neighborhood

Using sticky notes, this activity is an easy way to encourage letter recognition.

## Prep time

10 mins

## Clean-up time

5 mins

## Materials

- Sticky notes
- Big pieces of paper
- Markers

## How to set up this activity for preschoolers

- Draw 26 houses and write uppercase letters A to Z on the roofs.
- Write uppercase letters A to Z on the sticky notes.
- Invite your preschooler to match the letters on the sticky notes with those on the houses.
- This can be easily changed to an uppercase-to-lowercase-letters matching activity by simply writing lowercase letters a to z on the sticky notes.



## How to simplify this activity for toddlers

- Draw the number of houses that corresponds to the number of letters in your child's name. Write the letters of your child's name on the houses and sticky notes. Invite your toddler to match the letters to form his name.
- For young toddlers who are not interested in letters yet, change this into a color-matching activity. Color the roofs and the sticky notes with the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.
- Invite your toddler to match the colors on the sticky notes with those on the roofs.



### How to extend this activity for school-aged kids

- Invite your big kid to find toys and items around the house with the same beginning sounds as the letters on the houses. Work with her to spell out the names of the toys and items and write them down.



### Variation for everyone

Make this into a fun letter hunt game for your children.

One child hides the sticky notes around the room and the other sibling looks for them.

Match the letters on the sticky notes with those on the houses. They take turns hiding and finding the letters.