

5" x 6" paper • stapler • fabric with different textures (fur, burlap, corduroy, felt, silk, satin, bouclé, wool, cotton, and so on) • variety of other textured materials (corrugated material, bubble wrap, sandpaper, foil, feathers, cellophane, and thin wood pieces or sandpaper) • glue • marker

What to do

1. Make blank books for each child by stapling together five or six pieces of 5" x 6" paper. Give one to each child.
2. Put out a variety of textured materials for the children to choose from. Encourage the children to choose the textures they like and glue one on each page of their books.
3. Sit with each child and go through his book. Ask the child to touch each texture and use a word to describe how it feels. Help the child write the word next to the texture.
4. Now they have an interactive book that they can touch and read!
5. As a group, discuss some of the words that were used to describe the different textures in the books.

★ Gail Morris, Kemah, TX

Sandpaper Letters

Materials

Sandpaper squares • scissors or X-acto knife (adult only) • alphabet stencils • pencil • poster board

What to do

1. Trace both the lower- and uppercase letters of the alphabet onto squares of sandpaper and cut them out.
2. Mount the letters onto a piece of poster board.
3. Place the letters in the book or writing area of the classroom.
4. You may want to discuss letter sounds during circle time or with the children one by one.

Author Note: To aid in future reading abilities it is best NOT to state the letter name because some do not sound how the letter is pronounced. (For example, "G" makes "guh" and "juh" sounds but the letter is pronounced "gee."). Rather, discuss only the sound(s) it makes. Vowels and double-

sounding consonants should probably be covered last to avoid confusion when first introducing this technique to the children.

5. When applicable, and as time permits, use one- or two-word books in the reading center and sound out words as you read along with the children.
6. Children can use the letters to trace their names or other words as interest peaks.

★ Tina R. Woehler, Lebanon, TN

Reading With Your Hands

Materials

Tagboard • scissors • textured material, such as sandpaper or felt • glue • blindfold

What to do

1. Cut out 52 squares from tagboard. Then cut out a set of upper- and lowercase letters from a textured material, such as sandpaper or felt.
2. Glue a letter on each square.

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3. Show the children how they can “read” the letters by feeling them with their hands.
4. Let the children take turns putting on the blindfold and guessing what they’re holding.
5. Later they can match uppercase letters with lowercase letters. You can also do this with numbers.

Related books

It Begins With A by Stephanie Calmenson

Tomorrow’s Alphabet by George Shannon

★ Sandra Hutchins Lucas, Cox’s Creek, KY

Solomon Grundy

Materials
