

Mr. And Mrs. Alphabet Puppets

Materials

Letter stencils
Felt in a variety of colors
Marker
Child scissors
Glue
Mitten, one for each child
Googly eyes, pompoms, and yarn

What to do

1. Give each child letter stencil and different colored felt.
2. Show the children how to trace and cut out felt letters.
3. Give each child a mitten. Help the children glue their letters on the mitten, along with moveable eyes and yarn for hair.
4. Use the puppets as props to sing the ABC song.

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Lisa Chichester, Parkersburg, WV

Your Name's the Game

Materials

Computer labels
Markers

What to do

1. Explain to the children that they will write their names on labels and that you will put their name labels on their artwork and belongings.
2. Help the children make nametags using markers and computer labels.

3. Learning the mechanics of writing is a process. At this age, children are experimenting with written language. Some children will be able to write letters and words, while others will express themselves with something that resembles scribbles, rather than distinguishable letters. Regardless of their stage of literacy, encourage the children to experiment with writing and praise their efforts.

More to do

More Literacy: Place paper and markers in various centers throughout the room, which the children can use to enhance their play. Model the use of writing in everyday experience, such as making lists, writing notes, and so on.

Transitions: Make nametags and use them as a transition from one activity to the next. Show the name tags to the children and ask them to pick their names.

Related book

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

◆◆ Linda Andrews, Sonora, CA

Beanbag Name Game

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Materials

Beanbag
Alphabet chart

What to do

1. Ask the children to sit in a circle.
2. Toss the beanbag to a child and ask him to say, "My name is ____ and my name starts with ____." Then he goes to the front of the room and points to the first letter of his name on the alphabet chart.
3. Repeat this process until all the children have had a turn.
4. This is a great transition activity that incorporates movement and early literacy skills. Keep in mind that not all children are at the same developmental stage and some children will need help pointing to the letter that starts their name.

More to do

Write the letters of the alphabet on a large piece of poster board. Ask the children to toss a beanbag on the letters that are in their name.