

Plastic Letters

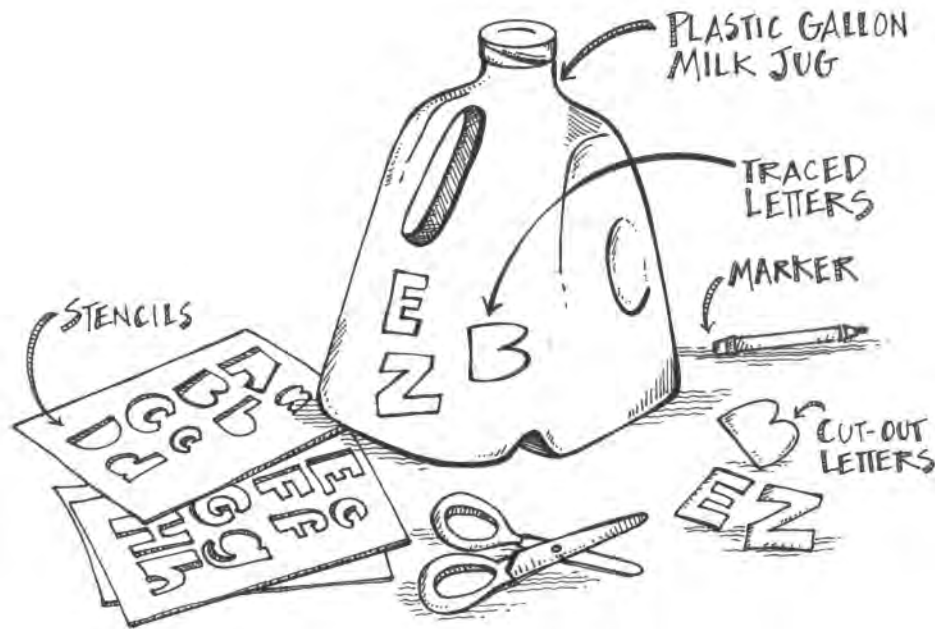
3+

Materials

- plastic gallon milk jug
- scissors
- letter stencils
- marker

What to do

1. Trace letters onto a plastic milk jug and cut them out. Use these for the first letter in each child's name.
2. Hold up the first letter of each child's name and sing the following song to your own tune. Continue until you have mentioned each child's name.



*"Z" is for Zachary,
 "Z" is for Zachary,
 He is one of our friends.
 "B" is for Billy,
 "B" is for Billy,
 He is one of our friends.*

3. Use the plastic letters as tracing templates, in the sand and water table, or to help children learn to spell their names.

★ Carrielin Jones, Sheboygan, WI

Books for Transitions

3+

Materials books

- What to do**
1. Books are a great way to settle everyone down and move on to the next activity. Many books lend themselves to gross motor activities.
 2. Read *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Joffe Numeroff, *Mouse Paint* by Ellen Stoll Walsh, or *Mouse Count* by Ellen Stoll Walsh and then ask the children to move to the next activity "as quiet as a mouse."
 3. After reading a book about trains, such as *Freight Train* by Donald Crews or *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper, ask the children to line up "like a train."
 4. Read a story about friendship, such as *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel or *Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni, and ask the children to hold hands to go to the next activity.

Author's Note: The children in my class love to line up chairs like a bus and sing "The Wheels on the Bus." If it is the end of the day, I sing, "The teacher on the bus waves bye-bye." If it is snack time, I sing, "The teacher on the bus says wash your hands." If it is outdoor time, I sing, "The teacher on the bus says get your coat."

★ Audrey Kanoff, Allentown, PA

Theme Book Basket

3+

Materials basket
assortment of books all related to a theme or topic

- What to do**
1. In the morning when children are arriving or at the end of lunch, bring out a basket of books for the children to look at as they arrive or finish eating.
 2. This is a great extension to a theme or subject that you are studying. For example, if the children are learning about collages in Art, fill the basket with books by Eric Carle. These books are all done in collage art and make a nice impression when they are together for children to see the similarities in the books.
 3. Make the books different from the ones on your standard bookshelf.

★ Gail Morris, Kemah, TX