

Alphabetic Principle Activity: Letter Sounds

Objective: To provide practice on letter sound associations.

Game 1: Mystery Square

Materials Needed: 8 cards with a letter sound printed on the front of each card, 1 card with a star, small sticky notes

Instructions: Without your child seeing, place a small sticky note on half of the game cards, leaving the letter on the card visible. Shuffle the cards and arrange them face down on the table in a 3-by-3 square. Take turns with your child choosing a card to turn over. Players earn one point for naming the letter on the card. If the card has a sticky note on it, then a player may earn two points: one for name the letter and one for saying the letter's sound. If a player chooses the star card, he or she automatically earns three points and another turn. Tally points as you play. Continue until all the cards have been turned over. Play a second round!

Game 2: Who has the Star?

Materials Needed: game cards (two of each letter) and a star card

Instructions: Tell your child that you are going to play Who Has the Star? Explain that you'll try to gather pairs of game cards and you'll also try to keep the star card. Explain that when it's your turn, you'll pick a card from the person on your left without looking at that person's cards. Then you'll say the name and sound of the letter on the card. If you have a card that matches that letter in your hand, you will lay down the pair on the table and take another turn. If you choose the star card, you'll keep the card. Play until all the cards are in pairs and someone is left with the star card. The person with the star card wins.

Game 3: Letter Match

Materials Needed: letter match card for each player, bingo chips

Instructions: Tell your child that you are going to play the game Letter Match. Explain that you will say a letter sound. If a player has the letter for that sound on his or her card, the player repeats the sound and places a marker on the letter. Call the first letter. Say, "The first sound is /d/. Do you have the letter for the sound /d/? (If the child has the letter d, they will state the sound and then cover the letter.) Yes, d is the letter for the sound /d/. Continue calling letters until someone fills a row. Repeat the game as time allows.

(Games from Scott Foresman's Early Reading Intervention)