

What's in a Name?

What's the most important word in any child's world: his or her name. In this activity, children learn to identify the letters in each other's names.

Strand

- Concepts of Print

Objectives

- identify letters in children's own names

Preparation

Put the letter tiles that spell each child's name in a basket. Include both the child's first name and last name.

Materials

- Letter Tiles
- Pocket Chart
- Baskets (small), one for each child

D a v i d

M a r t i n

A n t o n i o

G a l v e z

H y r u

G a u

M i s h a

W e l l s

Unscrambling Names

ELL

Some children's names may require accent marks. If so, you may wish to use a write-and-wipe marker to add the accent to the tile on a temporary basis.

Vocabulary

first, last, left, right

Give each child the basket in which you have placed the letters of his or her name. Tell the children to unscramble the letters in the basket to find the name of someone special. Note how quickly the children are able to build their names. If students are having difficulty, write the first and last name on paper.

Build one child's name in the pocket chart. Point out the space between the first name and the last name. Now show with your finger how you read the name starting at the left and moving right.

Next, talk about the letters in the name. How many letters do you see in the first name? last name? Tell the children that the beginning letter in a name is always uppercase. All the other letters are usually lowercase. Do any letters in the name repeat?

Point out that some of the letters are red. The red letters are called vowels. The vowels are *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u*. How many vowels do we see in the first name? in the last name?

Now have the children say the letters in the name together as you point to them. Then ask individuals to say the letters.

ELL

Students may know the letter names in their first language, but not the English letter names.

A Dog Named BINGO

Sing the BINGO song, substituting the child's name for BINGO. Point to the letters on the chart as you spell out the name.

There was a farmer had a dog

And Lisa was her name-oh

L-i-s-a, L-i-s-a, L-i-s-a,

And Lisa was her name-oh.

Now repeat the activity with another child's name, building the name with tiles, saying the letters, and singing the song.

Letter Lotto

Learning to recognize the letters of the alphabet is more fun in a game format. This game can be played again and again with an ever-changeable Lotto board.

Strand

- Concepts of Print

Objectives

- identify named letters of the alphabet

Materials

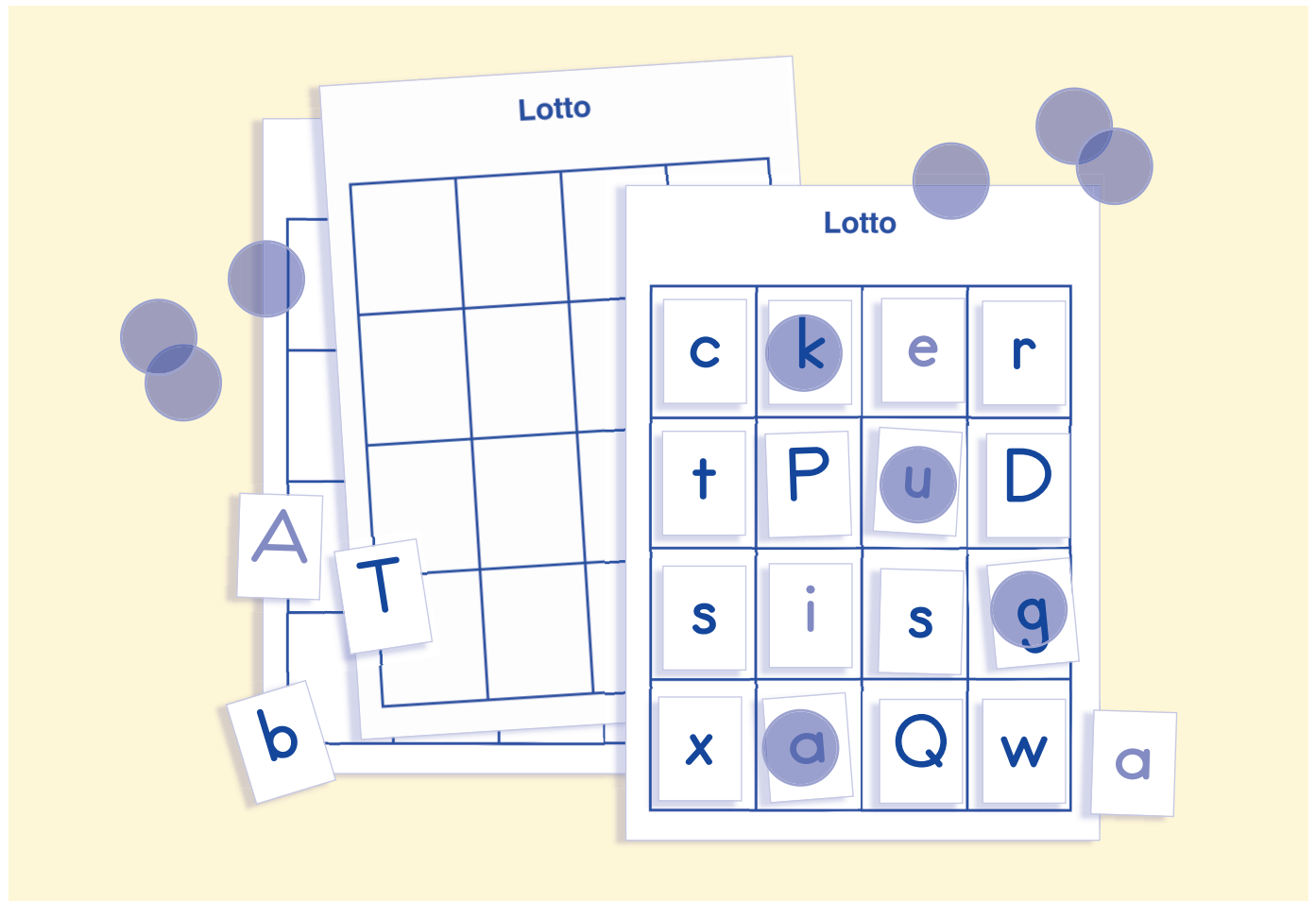
- Letter Tiles
- Transparent Chips
- Basket (one small and one large)

CD Resources

- Lotto boards, one for each child

Preparation

Put one of each letter of the alphabet (26 in all), either uppercase or lowercase, in a small basket. Then put the rest of the Letter Tiles, both uppercase and lowercase, in a large basket.



Setting Up

Tell the children that today they will be playing a game called Letter Lotto. First they need to set up their Lotto boards. Pass out a Lotto board to each child. Have each child take 16 random tiles from the large basket, and put them on their grids. As they put each letter on the grid, suggest that they say the letter out loud. If they are unsure of the name of a letter, help them to say the name. The tiles can go anywhere on the grid. Each child's grid will be different. Check to make sure they have placed their tiles on the grid so the letters are oriented correctly.

Ask the children about the letters on their game boards.

- Which letters are uppercase?
- How many vowels (red letters) do you have?
- Do you have any matching letters?
- Which letters look a lot alike?

Playing the Game

Now it is time to begin the game. Randomly take tiles one at a time from the small basket. Call out the name of the letter without showing it to the children. Have them look on their grids to see if they have that letter, either uppercase or lowercase. If they find the letter, they should place a chip on the letter or letters. The children may find and cover more than one letter (duplicates of a letter or uppercase and lowercase letters). Check to make sure the letter they cover is actually the letter you named. The object of the game is to cover every tile with a chip.

Continue calling out letters until a child has won the round.

Then play the game again. This time ask one of the children to call out the letters. Each time you play the game have a different child be the letter caller.

ELL

Letter names in the child's first language may be confused with the letter names in English. For example, the letter name *e* in Spanish is the letter name *a* in English.

Wacky Letters

Students will encounter many different fonts when they read books. The subtle and not-so-subtle differences can make it difficult for children to identify the letters. This lesson focuses on the concept that letters come in many different shapes and sizes.

Strand

- Concepts of Print

CD Resources

- Wacky Letters, one copy

Objectives

- name letters of the alphabet
- distinguish letters of the alphabet in different fonts

Preparation

Cut out 26 strips from the pages of Wacky Letters, one strip for each letter.

Materials

- each child's *My ABC Book*
- scissors, one for each child
- glue sticks, one for each child

Gg

G

G

g g g g G G

Words I know:

8

Hh

h h h h H H H H
 k k k k K K K K
 m m m m M M M M

Words I know:

9

My ABC Book

Hand out the *My ABC Books*. Invite the children to look through the books. What do they notice about the order of the letters? (The pages are in alphabetical order.) Tell the children that today they will be cutting and pasting letters on the pages. Explain that not all letters look exactly alike.

Show an example strip of letters. Have the children turn to that page of their *My ABC Books*. How are the letters on the strip different from the letter shown on the page? For example, a typical printed lowercase *t* has a tail on the bottom of the letter. Compare other letters in similar ways.

Cut and Paste

Now invite the students to cut out an uppercase and a lowercase letter from each strip of letters. They can paste the letters on the corresponding page of their books.

More Practice

Have the children search for interesting letters in old magazines or newspapers. Invite them to cut out the letters and paste them in their *My ABC Books*.

