Letter Jigsaw Puzzles

Letters and Sounds Activities

Find the upper and lower case puzzles for the letters of the week.

Complete them with the student(s). As you make them, talk about the letters, using both name and sound. Use the pictures in the puzzle to talk about the sounds as well. Find words that start with the letter in your AAC system. Make sure to use the words “upper case” and “lower case”.

Puzzles from https://thisreadingmama.com/printable-alphabet-puzzles/

Letter Bracelets

Letters and Sounds Activities

Have an assortment of letter shaped beads available, making sure to include the letters of the week.

Have a few different coloured pipe cleaners ready.

Get the student(s) to chose a pipe cleaner, and thread letters – or they select them and you thread the letters. Talk about the letters using their names and sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system.

Drawing Letters on Hands

Letters and Sounds Activities

Have some face paint crayons or pens ready. Ask the student(s) to choose a colour and talk about which letter of the week to paint.

Paint both the upper and lower case letters on the student's hand(s). Talk about the letter name & sound. If you are artistic you could draw a picture of something that starts with the letter too! Write additional letters if time.

Painting Letters on Concrete

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get some brushes and a jug of water.

Paint both the upper and lower case letters of the week. Talk about the letter name and letter sounds.

Find some words in your AAC system that start with the letter and write them.

Encourage the student(s) to write with the water too.

Writing Letters on Path/Bricks with Chalk

Letters and Sounds Activities

Take some chalk outside.

Write both the upper and lower case letters of the week on the path or on one of the building walls. Talk about the letter name and letter sounds.

Find some words in your AAC system that start with the letter and write them.

Encourage the student(s) to write with the chalk too.

Letter Craft Activities

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the large outline upper and lower case letters for one or more of the letters of the week.

Collect appropriate art materials and ask the student(s) to decorate the letters e.g. paint, stickers, wool, crayons, bobbles, etc.

As the student(s) are decorating, talk about the letter name and sounds.

PS You may need to cut around the letter at the end to make the shape more obvious.

Bath Toy Letters in Water

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab a tub and bath toy letters. Add water to the tub and have fun! You can focus on the letters of the week or you can use the whole alphabet.

As you and the student(s) look at or touch letters, talk about the letter names and letter sounds. Talk about people and things you know that start with the letters.

Playing with Letter Tiles

Letters and Sounds Activities

Select one of the sets of letter tiles. We have square, round and magnetic tiles.

As you and the student(s) look at or touch letters, talk about the letters using their names and sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system. You can build towers or sort tiles – have fun!

magnetic tiles

square letter tiles

round letter tiles

Playing with Letter Bricks

Select one of the sets of letter bricks. We have Unifix cubes, Duplo with letters, small bricks and building blocks with the letters on them.

As you and the student(s) look at or touch letters, talk about the letters using their names and sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system. Build letter towers, walls or other shapes!

Letters and Sounds Activities

Unifix cubes

small bricks (Coko)

Building blocks with letters

Duplo with letters

Make Letters out of Playdough

Letters and Sounds Activities

Collect some Playdough and roll it into "snakes". You could get the student(s) to choose the colour(s).

Use the Playdough snakes to make the letters of the week, upper and lower case. As you make them talk about the letter names and letter sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system. If you have time, make letters in the student(s) name(s) as well.

Using Playdough Letter Mats

Letters and Sounds Activities

Collect some Playdough and roll it into “snakes”. You could get the student(s) to choose the colour(s).

Use the Playdough snakes to make the letters of the week, upper and lower case using the Playdough letter mats. As you make them talk about the letter names and letter sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system.

Using Translucent Letters on the Lightboard

Letters and Sounds Activities

Set up the lightboard and grab the set of translucent letters. Make sure you have the letters of the week plus some more e.g. letters in student's name, or the whole alphabet.

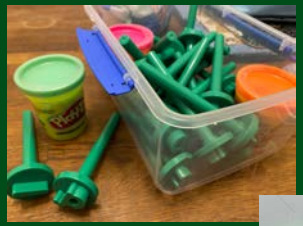
Place letters on the lightboard and talk about the letters using their names and sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system.

Playdough Letter Stampers

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab a set of playdough letter stampers and some playdough or clay.

Roll out some playdough or clay and stamp letters into it. Talk about the letters by letter name and letter sound. When you find a letter that starts a student or staff member's name, talk about them e.g. there's an S. S is for Skye! If possible, stamp out some of the names that you mention.



Playing with Magnetic Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab some student whiteboards and a set of magnetic letters or two! You can focus on the letters of the week or a wider range of letters – but make sure the letters of the week are included.

As you or the student(s) put letters on the whiteboards, talk about them by letter name and sound. If the set you chose has upper and lower case letters, try and find both and talk about upper case and lower case.

Letters on Clothes Pegs

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get some paper plates and the set of clothes pegs with letters. You can do some free play, and put pegs on the plates talking about the letter name(s) and sound(s). Or you can write letters around the plate and find the pegs to match. If doing matching, you can do upper and lower case matching or match the same case. If doing upper and lower case remember to use the words “upper case” and “lower case”. Don’t forget to talk about the letters by letter name and letter sound.

Tracing Letters with Markers or Paint

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the large grey upper and lower case letters for one or more of the letters of the week.

Collect appropriate art materials e.g. markers, crayons, or paint, and ask the student(s) to trace the letters.

As the student(s) trace a letter, talk about the letter name and letter sounds and words that start with that letter. Find some of the words in your AAC system.

Using Student Whiteboards to “write” Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab student whiteboards and some whiteboard markers. The student(s) can choose the colour of the marker and change it at any time.

If the student(s) can control the marker, then you can both write letters – focus on the letters of the week. If the student(s) have difficulty controlling the marker, grab a flip chart. You can write the letters they select in the flip chart. In either version, don’t forget to talk about the letter names and sounds.

Using Ball Pit Letter Balls

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab the set of ball pit balls with letters written on them. You can play a range of games with these.

You can use the ladle to pull out balls, and then ask the student(s) to find the same letter elsewhere in the classroom. You can get the student(s) to hand you balls, and you say the letter names and sounds, then put them into another tub. You can scatter them around the room, and as you collect them and put them in the tub you can talk about the letter name and sound. Or anything else that occurs to you!

Playing with Sandpaper Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab a set of sandpaper letters – upper case or lower case.

Start with the letters of the week. Encourage the student(s) to use their fingers to feel the letters, talking about the letter names and sounds as they do so. Continue with further letters – if any student is an early alphabet learner start with letters in their name. Find words that start with the letters in your AAC system.

Playing with Tactile Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get one or more of the sets of tactile letters. We have Braille letters and liquid and bead filled letters.

Put the letters in a tub or in a clear area. You could also put the tactile letters into a tub with other tactile objects and focus on finding the letters.

Encourage the student(s) to interact with the letters. Talk about letter names and sounds, focusing on letters in their name(s).

Playing with Foam Letter Mats

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab the foam letter mats, create a clear floor space and start playing!

You can connect letters together to make words, or put the tiles in alphabetic order or any random order.

You can pull the letters out of the tiles and feel their shape - and then find the matching tile to put them back in.

Remember to talk about letter names and sounds as you play with the mats.

Making an Alphabet Scrapbook

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab the collection of magazines and advertising pamphlets and the student(s) Alphabet Scrapbook.

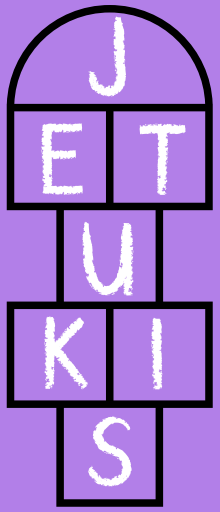
Turn to the page for one of the letters of the week and then start looking for that letter in the magazines/advertising. As you come across the letter, cut it out, and stick it in. As you do so, talk about the letter name and sounds. You can also add pictures of things that start with the letter.

Playing Alphabet Hopscotch

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab some chalk and mark up a hopscotch grid. Write some letters in the squares – you should use the letters of the week plus some others. The student could tell you the extra letters to write using a flip chart.

Now play hopscotch and have fun! (You may need to adapt and change the game a little.) Use letter names and sound(s) as you play.



Making a Letter of the Week Mystery Bag (letters)

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get one of the empty calico mystery bags. Select one of the letters of the week.

Pull out a range of resources (magnetic letters, tactile letters, clothes pegs, etc). The student(s) and you should search through each set for the letter you have chosen. Each time you find one, put it in the mystery bag. Once you have several items in the mystery bag, go and find others to chat about the letter of the week.

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Making a Letter of the Week Mystery Bag (sounds)

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get one of the empty calico mystery bags. Select one of the letters of the week. Talk about the letter sound(s).

Search around for objects that start with the letter you have chosen and add them to the bag. For example, if your letter is “m”, you could add money, magnet, mask, marker.

Once you have several items in the mystery bag, go and see if others can guess the letter of the week.

Reading Letter Books from Tar Heel Reader (or others)

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab single letter alphabet books. Make sure you include books for the letters of the week, but you can select some others as well.

Let the student select a book and read it together. Talk about the letter, pointing to it on a flip chart or alphabet board as well. Use the letter name and sound(s). Find some of the words in the books in your AAC system as well.

Jane Farrall CONSULTING

Glue and Glitter Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the large grey upper and lower case letters for one or more of the letters of the week, glue sticks and glitter.

Cover the shape of the letter with glue. Get the student to select the colour glitter they want to use for a letter.

Cover the letter in glitter, using letter name and sound(s) to talk about it.

(Tip: it might be best to do this activity inside a tub in an attempt to contain the glitter!)

Playing with Letter Stones

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the tub of letter stones and take them to the sand tray. Put the letter stones through the sand.

Get the student(s) to search for the letter stones. As they find them, talk about them by letter name and sound. As they find letters that start the names of staff or students talk about that person – and the sound the letter makes in their name.

Letter Hunt in the Playground

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the set of large wooden letters that have been painted in fluorescent colours. Place or hide them around the playground.

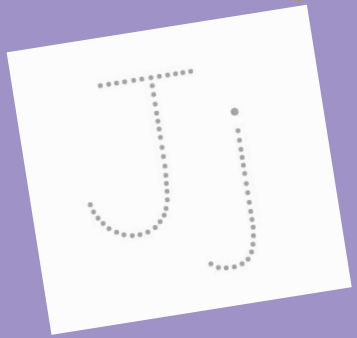
Get the student(s) to search for the letters. As they find them, talk about them by letter name and sound. As they find letters get them to put them back in the tub. You can then find a word that starts with the letter in your AAC system.

Cotton Tip Painting Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the dot letter sheet for one or more of the letters of the week. Fill one of the paint trays with assorted colours and add cotton tips to each colour.

As the student(s) paint a letter, talk about the letter name and letter sounds and words that start with that letter. Find some of the words in your AAC system.



Dabbing Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the upper and lower case outline letter sheets for one or more of the letters of the week. Grab a set of dabbers.

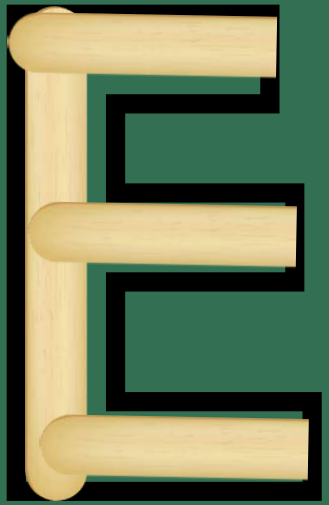
As the student(s) dab a letter, talk about the letter name and letter sounds, and words that start with that letter. Find some of the words in your AAC system.

Wooden Ice Cream Stick letter construction

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the outline letter sheets for one or more letters with straight lines e g. A, E, F, H, I, K, L, M, N, T, V, W, X, Y, Z. (Avoid letters with curves). Grab some wooden ice cream sticks, a pair of scissors to cut them into different lengths, and some glue.

Get the students to use the outline letter as a model and build the letter out of ice cream sticks. Talk about the letter name and sound(s) of the letter.



Chalk Markers & Writing on Windows

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the pack of chalk markers and select a window to write on. Write the letters of the week across the top of the window.

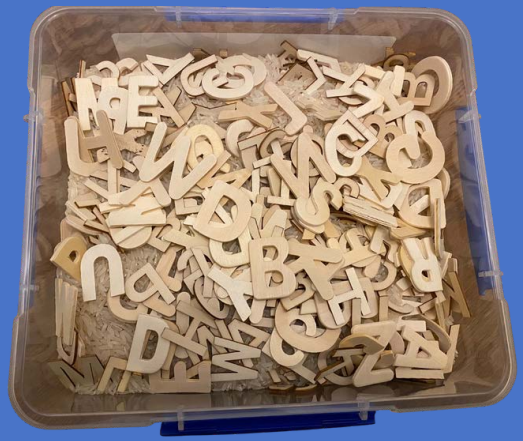
Ask the student(s) to find words that start with the letters of the week in their AAC system or in books. As they find them, write them up under the appropriate letter. This is a great time to talk about the sounds that the letters of the week make.

Letter Hunt in Sensory Materials

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab one of the containers of coloured rice, pasta, twists of paper, etc. and put it into a tub. Add one or more sets of letters and mix them through.

Now go on a letter hunt! As the student(s) find letters, talk about the names and sounds. You could write a list of what they find or start using letters to spell the names of favourite people or things.

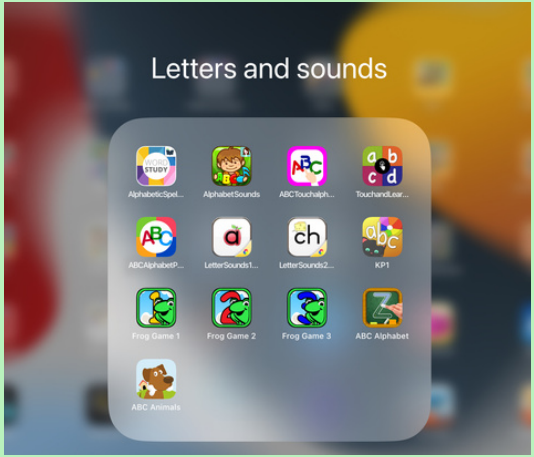


iPad Letter Games/Apps

Letters and Sounds Activities

The class iPads have a folder called “Letters and Sounds”. There are a range of letter and sound games that the student(s) can use.

Sit and chat with the student while they are using the apps – they will learn more if you are there talking about letter names and sounds and making connections.



Glow In The Dark Letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Preparation: Grab the container of glow in the dark letters and spread them out in a tub. Put them in full light for a couple of hours.

Once the letters are ready, take the tub into the reset room, spread the letters around the room, close the blinds and turn off the lights. Invite the student(s) in and get them to find the letters and talk about them by their name(s) and sound(s).

Alphabet Paint Stamping

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get the alphabet paint stamps and some paper plates. Add different a colour paint to each plate. Get some sheets of paper for letter stamping.

Encourage the students to stamp letters onto the paper. As they stamp letters, talk about the letter names and sounds. You can stamp your own letters, including words, on your own piece of paper.

Sensory Bags with Letters in them

Letters and Sounds Activities

There are different sensory bags with letters available. Select one or two and look at them with the student. Each letter bag has different foam letters in it – so you can look at the letters, talk about letter names and sounds – and find words that start with the letters in your AAC system.

The sensory bags have non-toxic hair gel and foam letters in them. If they break please dispose of them straight away.

Sensory bag instructions from https://www.messylittlemonster.com/2015/02/how-to-make-sensory-bags-for-babies-and.html

Driving cars around a letter road

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab the set of letter roads and some toy cars.

Work your way through the alphabet – encouraging students to drive their car around each letter.

As students drive around letters, talk about the letter name and sounds. It's also a great activity to talk about the letter shapes.

Making pastry letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Preparation - get a packet of shortcrust pastry from the freezer and take out 1 or 2 sheets to defrost. While you wait, set the oven to 180°c. Grab the set of alphabet cookie cutters and pull out the letters of the week. Get an oven tray and place a baking sheet on the tray. Once the pastry is defrosted, ask student(s) to stamp out the letters of the week - talk about the letters using their names and sounds. As letters are cut out, place them on the tray. When the students have finished cutting letters, put the tray in the oven for 8 - 10 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Icing pastry letters

Letters and Sounds Activities

Preparation – get a bowl, a packet of icing sugar and some water. Put one cup of icing sugar in the bowl and add 1 tablespoon of water. Mix together until smooth. Add food colour if desired.

Get the letters that the student(s) made and baked previously – and now encourage the students to ice them.

Once again, talk about the letters as you ice them, using both letter names and sounds.

Writing letters in mud

Letters and Sounds Activities

Preparation - make some mud (mix dirt and water) in a tray.

Grab the mud tray you made earlier, along with the outline letters for the letters of the week and some ice cream sticks for writing with.

Write the letters of the week in the mud, using the outline letter as a guide - talking about them using their names and sounds.

Encourage students to write them as well.

Talk about people/things that start with the letters.

Making Letters Using Kinetic Sand or Ever Foam

Letters and Sounds Activities

Collect either kinetic sand or Ever Foam.

Use the sand or foam to make the letters of the week, upper and lower case. As you make them talk about the letter names and letter sounds. Talk about words that start with the letters, finding them in your AAC system. If you have time, make letters in the student(s) name(s) as well.

Listening to Alphabet Songs

Letters and Sounds Activities

Search for alphabet songs for the letters of the week.

Listen to (or watch) the alphabet songs. As you listen, point to the letter in the alphabet in your AAC system. Sing along if you know the words! Listen to a song for each of the letters of the week.

Reading Alphabet Books

Letters and Sounds Activities

Get a selection of alphabet books and get the student(s) to select one.

Read the book to the student(s). As you come across significant letters e.g. letters of the week, letters in their name(s), point them out and use the letter name and sound.

Have fun reading!!

Letter Sorts

Letters and Sounds Activities

Grab the letter bags for two or more letters of the week.

Mix the contents of the bags together in one container. Get the appropriate number of sorting bins, put a letter sign on each bin – and ask students to sort the letters into the correct bin.

As students sort the letters, talk about the letter using its letter name and sound.