

50 Ways to Learn Letters Without Holding a Pencil

1. Use magnetic letters to sequence and match letters. Build words and sentences.
2. Use felt letters or alphabet cards to sequence and match letters.
3. Put plastic letters in a feel bag or box and let children guess what letter they are feeling.
4. Paint letters on an easel.
5. Finger pain letters.

Write letters with your finger:

6. in cornmeal
7. in sand
8. in pudding (dry or prepared)
9. in foam soap
10. in shaving cream
11. in bird seed
12. in colored sand



13. Glue beans, noodles, cloth, cotton balls, miniature marshmallows, rice, or paper to make mosaics in the shape of letters.
14. Use push pins to outline letters.
15. Build letters with Playdough, pretzels, or bread dough.
16. Use letter stamps to sequence the alphabet or words.
17. Air write letters. Use a dowel with colorful streamers attached.
18. Water paint letters on the blackboard.
19. Make letters with wikie sticks or pipe cleaners.
20. Play alphabet bingo.
21. Play mystery writing: take the student's hand and write a letter with his or her hand while his eyes are closed. Have the student guess the letter.
22. Cut out letters with scissors.
23. Provide wooden, cardboard, or paper shapes to build alphabet letters.
24. Use scrabble tiles to match letters, build words, or sentences

Pretzels

Use masking tape or rope to make letters on the floor and have children:

25. trace letters with their feet
26. walk or crawl on them following the path of the letter
27. drive toy cars on them
28. follow the shape of the letter by "painting" with a paint roller (paint free of course!)
29. roll them out with rolling pins
30. hop or jump along the letter lines

Make alphabet cards for matching (visually or by touch) and tracing with:

31. colored glue

32. yarn and glue

33. dry Jello and glue

34. puff paint

35. glue and sand, cornmeal, etc.

Note: You can make the tactile alphabet cards by either cutting out alphabet shapes from cardboard and covering it with the tactile media or by “writing” the letter with glue and covering that area with the tactile media.

Write letters on:

36. Magna-doodles

37. blackboards

38. dry-erase boards

39. paper with a bumpy board under it

40. Sort letters.

41. Play “go fish” with alphabet cards.

42. Fish for letters using a homemade fishing pole with a magnet hanging on a string. Letter cards can have paperclips placed on them.

43. Complete an alphabet puzzle of all the letters or sequence alphabet cards.

44. Make alphabet cards and cut them into half; have students match them.

45. Have students match upper and lowercase alphabet letters.

46. Find letters in magazines, books, on cereal boxes and other household items.

47. Hide letters in sand, rice and beans, or birdseed and have students find them and identify them by feeling them.

48. Make an ABC book by cutting out pictures that start with a given letter.

49. Sponge paint letters.

50. Play “I Spy” with letters. For example: “I see the letter “r” hiding on this page”; “I see a word that begins with the letter “r”.: Then have the student find the letter or word.

