

## Activities for Learning Letters and Sight Words

### Tactile Activities (Touch)

**Sand Boxes**-Spray paint the bottom of a box. Add a thin layer of white sand or salt. The child draws the letter with their finger in the sand.

**Shaving Cream** (or chocolate pudding)-Put some shaving cream in an old cookie sheet. Spread it out. The child draws the letter with their finger.

**Write** with chalk on the sidewalk or on paper laid on a rough surface with crayon.

### Manipulatives

Form letters with Wikki Stix, play dough, wet noodles, string etc.

Spell words with alphabet cereal, magnetic letters, letters cut from newspaper or magazines.

Use ABC stamps and colored ink pads to stamp out the words.

**Games** (The following games use flash cards that can be made from index cards.)

#### Fly Swatter Tag

Arrange several cards with the letters or words being studied on the table. Call out the letter or word. The child swats it with a fly swatter.

#### Memory

Make two cards of every letter or word. Turn over on table. Take turns trying to make matches. If you make a match you get the pair. If you do not make a match you must turn the cards over and your turn is over. Continue until all pairs are found.

#### Go Fish

Make two cards of every letter or word. Place in the center of the table (turned over). Draw 4 cards. Lay down any matches. Play like "Go Fish". You call on another player and ask for a letter (or word). If they have it, they must give it to you. If they do not have it they tell you to go fish and you draw a card from the pile on the table. Play continues until all of the cards are gone. The player with the most pairs is the winner.

#### Tic-Tac-Know

Make a large grid on a piece of paper. Lay an index card in each opening. One player has milk bottle tops (or pipe cleaner O's). The other player has X's made from Popsicle sticks (or pipe cleaners). Play like tic-tac-toe but the player must read the letter (or word) before they can claim the space.

**Roll Say Keep-**

Materials needed- flash cards, 1 die, game board (can be downloaded at [www.theschoolbell.com](http://www.theschoolbell.com) . Click on Dolch Kit. Click on Roll Say Keep)

Place a flash card in each section of the gameboard. The child then rolls a die.

He/she must read the letter or word on the matching section of the board. If he can read the card, he keeps it and replaces the card with another from the pile. At the end of the game the person with the most cards wins.

**Bingo**

Make a couple of bingo grids (9 or 16 spaces). Each player writes the letters or words being worked on in a different space. Place the index cards in a box or hat.

As each card is drawn the players cover the word or letter on their card until someone gets a row covered.

**Bean Bag Toss**

Lay flash cards on the floor. Take turns tossing the bean bag. If the child can read the word or letter that the bag landed on they may pick it up. The game is over when all of the cards are gone.

**Board Games**

You can reuse any board game at home for this or you and your child can design your own. Before the player can roll the dice to see how far to move they must read the card. Additional game boards can be found at [www.theschoolbell.com](http://www.theschoolbell.com). ( Click on Dolch Kit. Click on gameboards.)

**Extra Practice**

Flash cards

Computer-[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) has activities for each letter and stories for beginning readers.