

# EARLY LITERACY ACTIVITIES

## to do at Home!

Parents—if you have young children at home who need support with Reading and Writing activities, we can help! Here are some suggested fun activities to enhance your children’s literacy education.

### 1. Memory Match

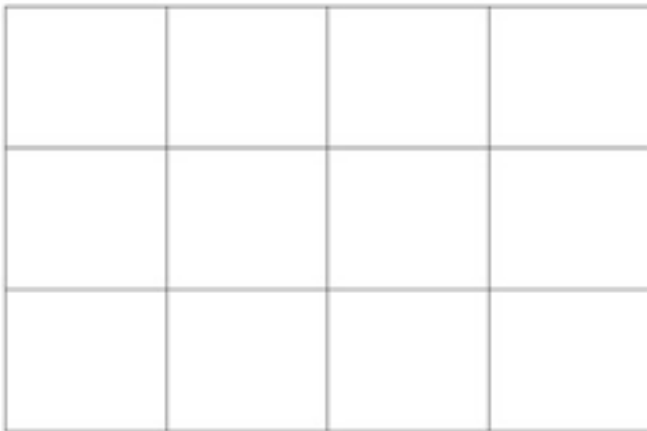
Have your child practice letter identification, sight words, and/or vocabulary skills with this fun game!

#### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencils/Pens/Markers

#### DIRECTIONS:

Cut each sheet of paper into equal sized rectangles (as in the sample below).  
Cut out the rectangles to form cards.



Depending on the age of your child, you might consider having your child

- Match uppercase to lowercase letters (A, a ; B, b ; C, c ; etc.).
- Match sight words (the, the ; is, is ; of, of ; etc.).
- Match synonyms (happy, glad ; tasty, yummy ; fast, quick ; etc.)

Once you make the pairs of cards by writing the letters or words on them, turn them all face down on the floor. Take turns flipping two cards and trying to find the matches! Each time a player finds a matching pair, he/she puts that pair of cards in a pile next to him/her. Whoever ends up with the most matching pairs wins.

## 2. Hot Lava

Practice letter identification, sight words recognition, and/or decoding.

### MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Pencils/pens/markers

### DIRECTIONS:

Write a letter of the alphabet on each of 26 pieces of construction paper. Lay out the letters all over the floor. Tell your child that he/she needs to stand on a specific letter. Any non-letter area of the floor is “hot lava,” so players need to stay on the construction paper! Have the child move from letter to letter, saying each letter as he/she steps on it. Or, for a bigger challenge, name a letter and have your child locate and very carefully navigate to that letter!

For older children, you can write sight words or simple words to decode (i.e., consonant-vowel-consonant words such as cat, mop, and dig) on each piece of construction paper.

## 3. Letter-Sound Scavenger Hunt

Practice recognizing letter sounds with your child.

### DIRECTIONS:

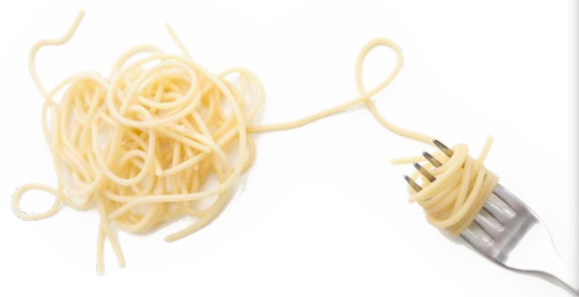
Find items around the house that begin with a specific letter sound! For example, “Bring me three things that begin with the sound /b/.” Your child might gather a ball, a bear, and a box. Do this several times throughout the day with different letter sounds.

## 4. Form Letters

Practice forming letters! You can do this with a variety of materials, not just pencils and paper!

Try forming letters with the following materials:

- Yarn
- Cooked spaghetti
- Play dough
- Dried beans on a baking sheet



## 5. Rhyme Time

Identifying and producing rhymes is an important step in your child’s literacy journey!

### MATERIALS:

- Optional: Books with poetry for children, nursery rhymes, Dr. Seuss rhyming books

### DIRECTIONS:

Read rhyming poems or books together, and have your child identify the rhyming words. Or, say a word, and have your child say a rhyming word. The rhyme can be a real OR nonsense word.

## 6. Sight Words Hopscotch

Practice reading sight words quickly and automatically.

### MATERIALS:

- Chalk
- A driveway or sidewalk



### DIRECTIONS:

Draw a hopscotch board. Instead of numbers, write in 10 sight words. Have your child throw a stone or small piece of chalk onto one of the squares. Then, the student should quickly say the word and hop to it!

## 7. Letter/Sight Words/CVC Words Bingo

### MATERIALS:

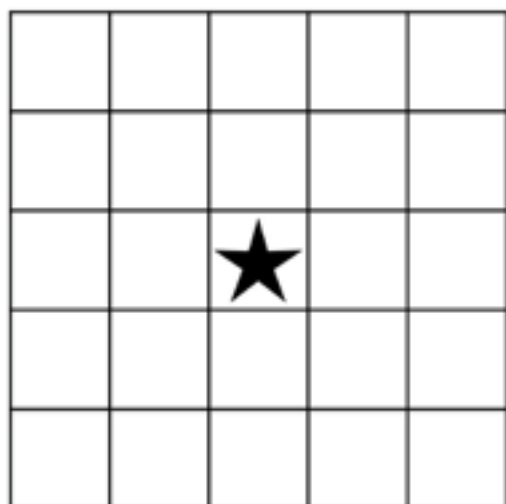
- Paper
- Pencils/pens/markers
- Cereal, raisins, chocolate chips, or other small “markers” for a BINGO board



### DIRECTIONS:

Create a BINGO chart using the template below. Fill in each square with a letter, sight word, or short consonant-vowel-consonant word (such as cat, mop, and dig). First, have your child place a piece of cereal, raisin, chocolate chip, or other small edible marker on the star in the center of the board. Then, say a letter/sight word/short word, and as your child finds it on the board, have him/her place a marker on that square. When your child completes a row across, down, or diagonally, he/she shouts “Bingo!” and can eat the snacks.

**B I N G O**



## 8. Build and Blend Words

Practice blending letter sounds to form words! This skill will help your child decode words he/she encounters in books.

### MATERIALS:

- Construction Paper (two colors)
- Pencils/pens/markers

### DIRECTIONS:

Have your child build words and decode them! Cut out 2" by 2" squares of construction paper. Write one consonant per square on one color of paper. Using another color of paper, write the vowels (a, e, i, o, and u) on the 2" by 2" squares.

Have your child create real and nonsense consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words by taking two letters from the consonant squares and putting a vowel square between them. Then, sound out the new word! Is it a real word? Is it nonsense? What will happen if you take one of the consonants away and replace it with a different one? What will happen if you replace the middle vowel?

## 9. Story Cubes

Foster some creating thinking with storytelling!

### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Template like the one below
- Pencils/pens/markers
- Scissors
- Tape



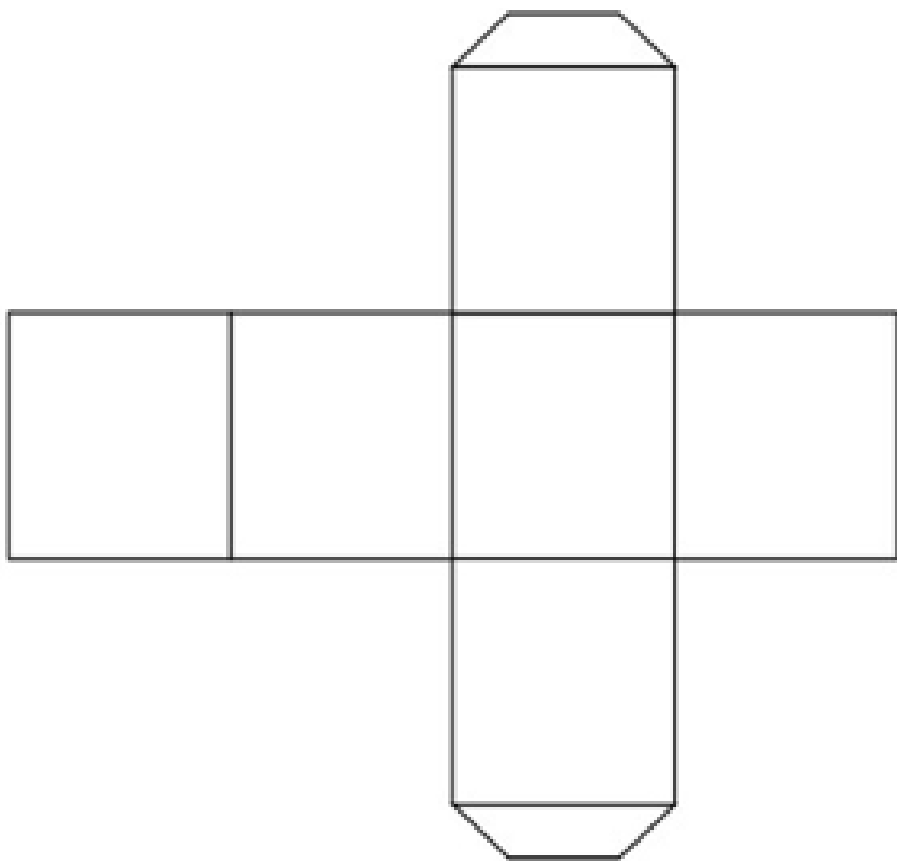
### DIRECTIONS:

This activity will spark creative storytelling ideas! Use a template like the one below on 3-4 pieces of paper. On each square, draw a picture (or write a word!) with your child's input.

You might want to include characters and objects such as the following:

- Princess
- Astronaut
- Frog
- Hippo
- Pizza
- Rocket
- Notebook
- Ice cream
- Tricycle
- Forest
- Alien

Be as silly as you like! Then, cut out each template and fold and tape it so that it forms a cube. Take the 3 or 4 cubes, and roll them! Tell a story that includes all of the things drawn or written on the top side of each cube. Then, reroll, and tell a different story!



## 10. Descriptive Language/Writing

Develop a rich vocabulary for expressing ideas with this activity!

### MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Pencils/pens/markers

### DIRECTIONS:

Create a themed menu for a special dinner! You can do this activity orally, or with labeled illustrations of what you would serve for dinner.

For example, perhaps your dinner theme is “Out of This World!” You might serve Plutonian Pasta, Martian Meatballs, Starry Salad, and Comet Cupcakes. What would each dish look like? Smell like, Taste like? Use lots of descriptive words!



## 11. Comic Dialogue

Write a Dialogue.

### MATERIALS:

- Daily Newspaper Comics Section
- Optional: Paper & Pencils/pens/markers



### DIRECTIONS:

Take the comics section from your newspaper. Create new dialogues for each strip! You can be one character, and your child can be another; your new dialogue can be oral—or you can practice writing out the new comic dialogue on paper.

## 12. And of course...READ ALOUD!

This activity builds vocabulary, comprehension, and a love of reading.

### MATERIALS:

- Books
- Love
- Optional: A lap

### DIRECTIONS:

Read aloud to your child! As you read, discuss the illustrations. Ask what you think will happen next. Ponder aloud what you think about the events in the book, and have your child weigh in!

