SPACE

PRE-K3



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Language and Literacy

Letter Constellations: Themed Alphabet

EZ.005.LA.1001-1002

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will identify letters of the alphabet.
Students will create letters in unconventional ways.

Each themed classroom includes a magnetic alphabet. A featured activity will be included with each themed magnetic alphabet. Using laminated capital and lowercase letters, students use star stickers to create a letter constellation on the template, building awareness around writing as a process. Students also work on developing fine motor skills.

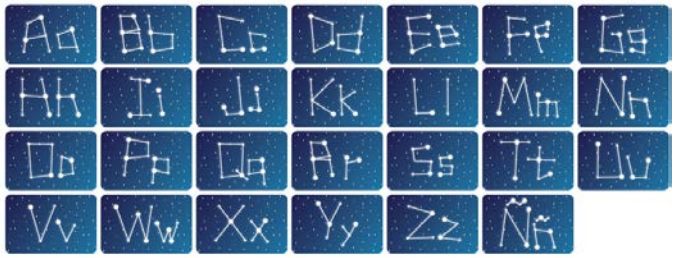
WHAT TO DO

1. After reviewing the term constellation (a group of stars forming an imaginary picture in the sky), students can make their own letter constellations using the reusable letter cards and foam star stickers. Encourage students to outline the letters to create constellations (be sure to use the foam stickers with the reusable letter cards).
2. Students can use the star stickers and black construction paper to make constellations (star patterns) in pictures and patterns of their choosing. Encourage the students to connect the stars using chalk and create a story about their constellation.

PLAY TIPS

- Make constellations out of pipe cleaners! Bend pipe cleaners into shapes and add beads in various locations. Encourage students to create a story about their constellation.
- Use a hole punch to make “stars” on black construction paper in a pattern or picture. Then, shine a flashlight through the paper while holding the paper five inches from a wall. Students can see their constellation shine on the wall!

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Mathematics

Number Scavenger Hunt: Number Cards

EZ.005.LA.1003-1004

Activity Type:
Small Group

Objectives:
Students will develop one-to-one correspondence.
Students will compare quantities of objects by using number recognition and one-to-one correspondence.

Each themed classroom includes themed number cards. A featured activity will be included with each set of themed number cards. Math manipulatives and tools, such as dominoes, help students make direct correlations between visual numbers and objects. Using dominoes, students make comparisons between numbers and participate in simple addition and subtraction tasks.

WHAT TO DO

1. Introduce the dominoes in a small group. Use a domino to model counting the dots and draw attention to the divide line on a domino.
2. Place the dominoes on the table and have students match the domino dots to the number card (one-to-one correspondence).

PLAY TIPS

- Work on simple addition and subtraction using the dominoes. Have students make comparison between the two sides of a domino, add the total amount of both sides (one-to-one correspondence), and ask students to subtract one side (count the remaining on the other side).
- Create simple domino matching cards and have students match the dominoes to the cards.

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Mathematics

Counting and Measurement

EZ.005.LA.1005

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will count items up to 10 with one-to-one correspondence.
Students will begin to add to and take away items.
Students will begin to use nonstandard measurement tools.

Students use counting manipulatives, non-standard forms of measurement like Unifix Cubes, and themed counters, to practice one-to-one correspondence and early practices of measurement using themed math cards. Measurement can be an abstract concept for young children. Manipulatives like blocks, cubes, or cups provide a tangible way to understand concepts like length, and height. By physically comparing and ordering objects, they can build a foundation for understanding measurement units later.

WHAT TO DO

After modeling how to use the mats, place the counting and measurement mats in a learning center as a teacher-directed or student-directed experience. As a teacher-directed experience, guide students to use manipulatives to show one-to-one correspondence and length. As a student-directed experience, allow students to freely explore the manipulatives and mats.

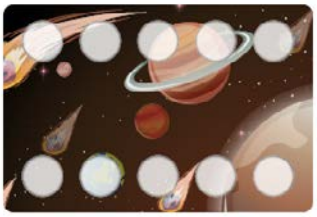
PLAY TIPS

- Use the math manipulatives to reinforce sorting by color and type. Encourage students to count how many are in each category. Encourage students to think of other ways to sort the manipulatives.
- Ask students to use the manipulatives to create patterns. Create simple pattern mats (ABAB, AABB, ABB) for additional support and guidance.

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Mathematics

Making Patterns

EZ.005.LA.1006

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will recognize common 2-D shapes.
Students will sort by features and attributes.
Students will recognize patterns.

Students explore patterns and properties of shapes as they create whole images using pattern blocks and themed pattern block mats. Pattern blocks boost students' ability to think critically, make predictions, and test their predictions.

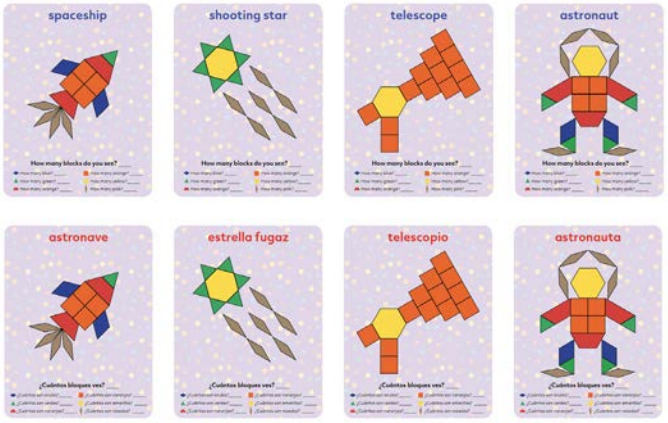
WHAT TO DO

Pattern block mats and pattern blocks work well as a self-directed activity. The intuitive nature requires little direction. Place the mats and pattern blocks out for students to explore freely, encouraging students to match the pattern block shape and color to the correlating space on the whole image.

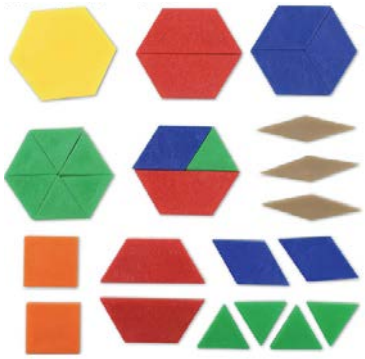
PLAY TIPS

- You can make your own pattern block cards by simply tracing pattern blocks on paper. Create a design using the pattern blocks and place the design on paper. Trace around the outer edge of your design and allow students to fill in the design with pattern blocks.
- Have students take a two-handed scoop of pattern blocks and sort by shape or color. Use graphing paper or a graphing mat to visualize the sorting process.
- Students can use mirrors to create patterns and make observations in the reflections. Ask students to describe what they are seeing as they create patterns in the mirrors.

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Language and Literacy

Pre-Writing Line Tracing

EZ.005.LA.1007

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will build pre-writing skills by tracing curved, notched, and zigzag lines. Students will recognize directionality in print and writing.

Students work on emergent literacy and transition to letter formations by tracing lines, patterns, and shapes with a theme in a dry erase, reusable format. To connect to fine motor development, students are encouraged to add detail. Themed templates are included for tracing.

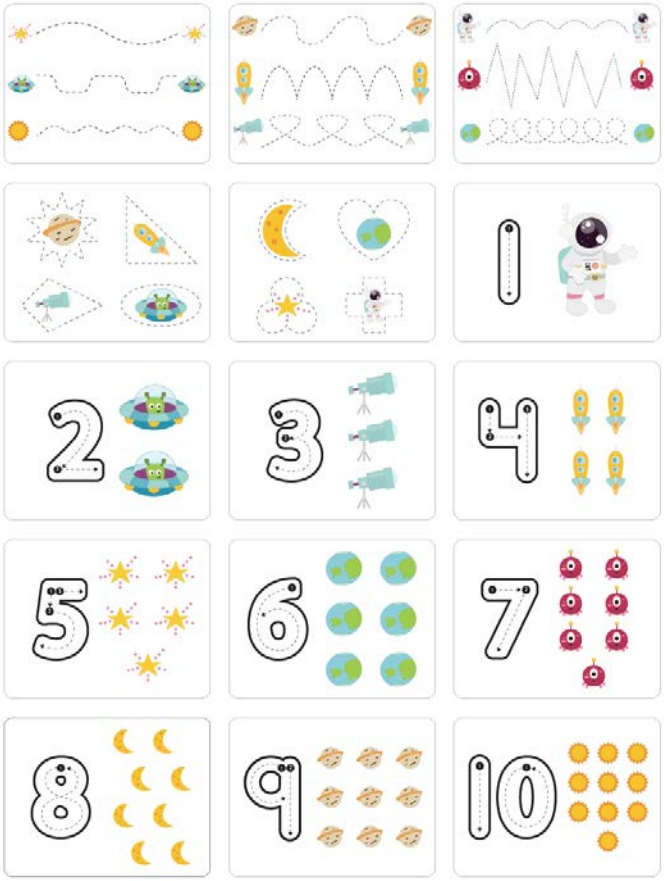
WHAT TO DO

1. Place the dry erase templates in the writing center. Students have the choice to use dry erase markers on the dry erase templates or place paper on the template and trace using a pencil/crayon. Remind students to start from left to right and top to bottom.
2. Encourage students to make their own tracing templates using the dry erase templates as a guide. Students can work on tracing shapes, lines, and numbers by repetitively tracing the same shape, line, or number using a different color crayon each time.

PLAY TIPS

- Include the themed tracing patterns in the writing center to align with other free-choice writing exercises. Using a clipboard will help students control the writing utensil.
- Tape the template vertically, on an easel or teacher board, to encourage the strengthening of fine motor development.

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Language and Literacy

Syllable Awareness

EZ.005.LA.1009

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will understand and use recognizable and new vocabulary.
Students will begin to blend and segment syllables in words.

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. It is an essential skill in the process of learning to read and write. Young children participate in various sound activities to build sound awareness. Recognizing that words can be broken down into syllables or units of sound is a phonological skill.

WHAT TO DO

Introduce the vocabulary cards as a guided activity or free choice center activity. Have students clap the number of beats on the vocabulary card and indicate the number by moving the clip.

PLAY TIPS

- Provide simple instruments to reinforce the number of syllables. Rather than clap the number of syllables in a word, students can shake the number of syllables.
- Students can use their body to emphasize syllables in a word. Have students jump up and down, tap their toes, march in place, do jumping jacks, or tap their head to count syllables.

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Language and Literacy

Connect Links Rhyming Words

EZ.005.LA.1010

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will understand and use recognizable and new vocabulary.
Students will begin to recognize rhyming words.

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. It is an essential skill in the process of learning to read and write. Young children participate in various sound activities to build sound awareness. Rhyming activities help children listen for ending sounds in words, a precursor to phonics activities in late preschool.

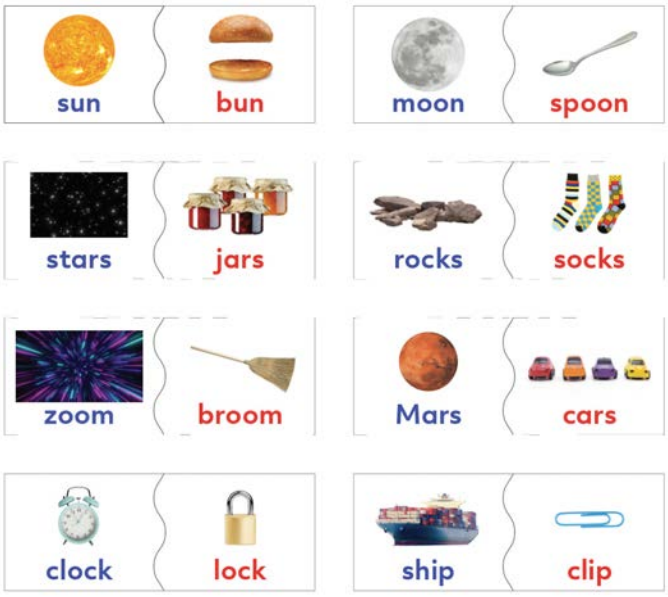
WHAT TO DO

In a small group, show students the rhyming cards while identifying each item. Have students say the name of the item. Identify two items that rhyme and model using the link-n-learns to connect the items. You can continue the activity as a small group or place in a free choice center for students to continue individually.

PLAY TIPS

Play the rhyming name game. Use made-up words to rhyme with students' names. For example, say "If your name rhymes with misa, touch your head," and Lisa touches their head. This activity works well during circle time or transition periods.

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Language and Literacy

Onset and Rime Awareness

EZ.005.LA.1011

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will understand and use recognizable and new vocabulary.
Students will begin to identify and segment one-syllable words.

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate the sounds of spoken language. It is an essential skill in the process of learning to read and write. Young children participate in various sound activities to build sound awareness. Onset and rime activities help children identify patterns in words.

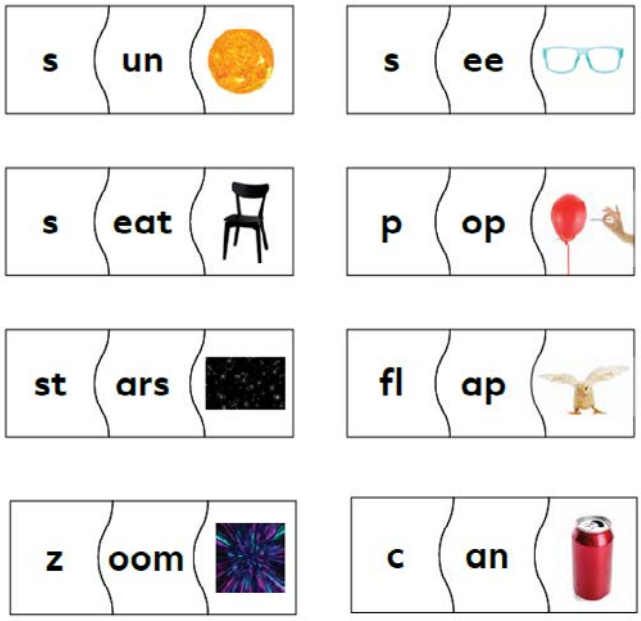
WHAT TO DO

Introduce the picture puzzles as a small group or free choice activity. As a small group exercise, model saying the onset together, the rime together, and the picture that identifies the word. As a free choice exercise, have the students put the pieces together to create a word.

PLAY TIP

Attach beginning and ending sounds to a set (2) of large dice. Have students roll the dice and say the word created, putting the onset and rime together.

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Language and Literacy

Space Syllables: Word Bank Words

EZ.005.LA.1012

Activity Type:
Free Choice and Small Group

Objectives:
Students will identify letters of the alphabet.
Students will recognize syllables through clapping beats.

Each themed classroom includes a word bank. A featured activity will be included with each themed word bank. Students clap the beats (syllables) to word bank words with support from the educator. Word bank words can be written on sentence strips to be used during morning meeting or other routine periods in the schedule.

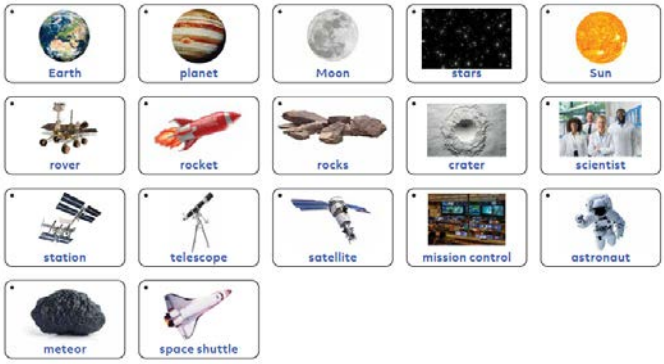
WHAT TO DO

1. Write word bank words on sentence strip paper and cut according to word length. Place the word bank words in the pocket chart for use during morning meeting or other group meeting times. Model clapping the beat (syllables) to word bank words as students follow along.
2. You can continue to model clapping the beat to word bank words as part of daily routines and even during transition periods (lining up and walking outside, transitioning to nap, etc.).

PLAY TIPS

- Instead of clapping the beat to word bank words, jump up and down to recognize syllables. You can even create a number line on the floor using painter's tape and have students jump to the appropriate number of syllables as you say a word.
- Use manipulatives and picture cards to recognize syllables. Students can move counters as they say each syllable in the word. Ask them to count the manipulatives to reinforce the number of syllables in the word.

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Language and Literacy

Peg Light Board Exploration

EZ.005.LA.1014

Activity Type:
Free Choice

Objectives:
Students will create art with light using design templates and imagination.
Students will develop fine motor skills.

In the classroom, a peg light board provides opportunities for free exploration or opportunities for educator-led experiences. Large-scale letter templates encourage students to practice letter formations in a non-conventional way.

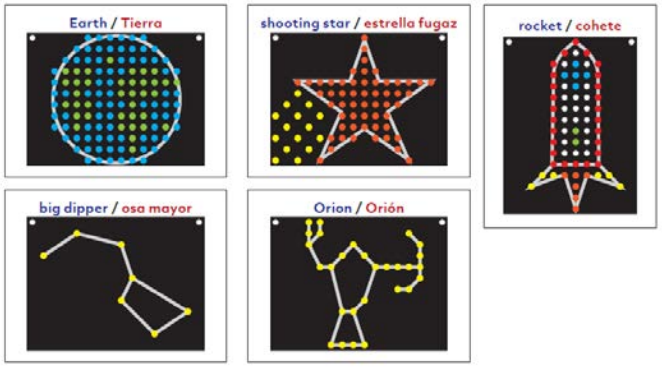
WHAT TO DO

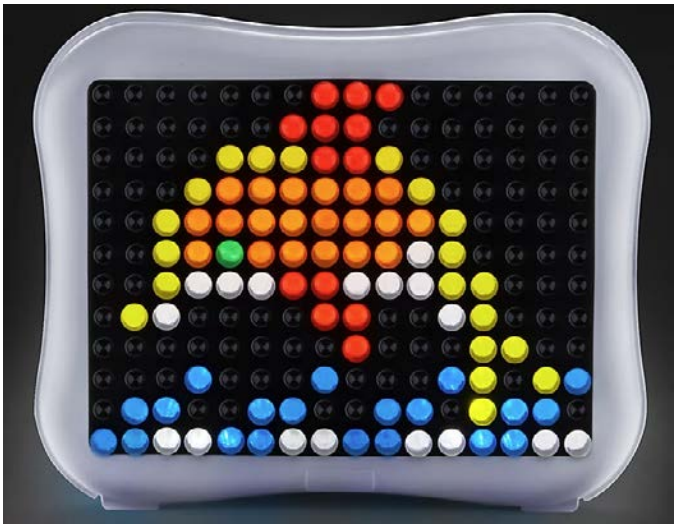
1. A peg light board can be used as a center-based, free-choice activity. Introduce and demonstrate interacting with the peg light board and templates. Encourage students to explore the templates and/or create pictures and patterns of their own.
2. Use the peg light board for sorting and counting activities. Students can sort by color and use the pegs as math manipulatives in educator-directed activities.

PLAY TIP

Make connections to the tabletop Peg Creations Light Board (similar features and functions). The individual light boards can be used by students who would like to work independently and students who need additional support.

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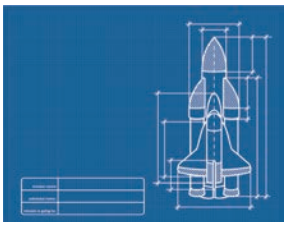
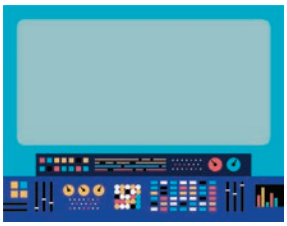


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Play-Based Learning Materials

Fine Arts:







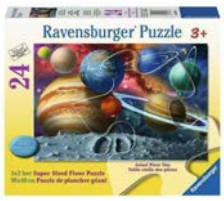

Games:







Puzzles:




Science:




Fine and Gross Motor:




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