



## More Than 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 paint letters.
6. Write letters with your finger 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 Play-doh, 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 a blackboard.
19. Make letters with Wikki Stix or pipe cleaners.
20. Play alphabet bingo.
21. Play mystery writing: take the student's hand and write a letter with his/her hand while his/her eyes are closed. Have the student guess what the letter is.
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.
25. Use computer games and programs to reinforce letter recognition.
26. Use masking tape or rope to make letters on the floor and have children trace letters with their feet
27. walk or crawl on them following the path of the letter
28. drive toy cars on them

29. follow the shape of the letter by “painting” with a dry paint roller
30. roll them out with rolling pins
31. hop or jump along the letter lines
32. Make alphabet cards for matching (visually or by touch) and tracing with colored glue
33. yarn and glue
34. dry Jello and glue
35. puff paint
36. 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.
37. Write letters on Magnadoodles
38. clay trays (Styrofoam tray or unbreakable plate with clay spread on it. Use a dowel, empty pen or pencil to write letters in the clay)
39. blackboards
40. dry erase boards
41. paper with sandpaper under it
42. paper with a bumpy board, plastic canvas or plastic screening under it
43. Sort letters.
44. Play “Go Fish” with alphabet cards.
45. Fish for letters using a homemade fishing pole with a magnet hanging on a string. Attach paper clips to the letter cards.
46. Complete and alphabet puzzle of all the letters or sequence alphabet cards.
47. Make alphabet cards and cut them in half then have students match them.
48. Have students match upper and lower case alphabet letters.
49. Hide letters in sand, rice, beans or birdseed and have students find them and identify them by touch.
50. Find letters in magazines, books, on cereal boxes and other household items.
51. Make an ABC book by cutting out pictures that start with a given letter.
52. Sponge paint letters.
53. 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.
54. Play Concentration or Memory with letter cards. Place cards face down. Each student takes a turn by turning over two cards. If they match they are removed. If they don’t match, the cards are turned over

again and the next student plays. Use as many or as few matching letter cards as you want.

55. Make body letters. Give several students a letter to make. Have students use their bodies to form the letter. They may try doing this standing up or lying on the floor. Have other students guess the letter.
56. Sew letters by making your own lacing cards in the shape of letters or having the students sew their names onto colored burlap.
57. Play “guess a letter”. Give clues about a letter and have students guess the letter. “I am thinking of a letter that is short, and comes after d in the alphabet.” Ask the student to tell the name and sound of the letter.
58. Play “what letter is missing”. Sequence alphabet cards from A to Z. Remove several letters and have students guess what letters are missing.
59. Play “that’s not right”. Sequence alphabet cards but misplace several cards. Have students find the errors and correct them.
60. When students are ready to write letters on paper use crayons, markers, chalk, paint, grease pencils, colored pencils, vibrating pens and finally, #2 pencils!