

## 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.

### **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 shapes to make mosaics in the shape of letters.
14. Use push pins to outline letters.
15. Build letters with Playdough, pretzel, 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 their eyes are closed. Have the student guess what letter it 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 such as "Baily's Book House" by Edmark.

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

26. 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 paint roller (paint free of course!)

30. roll them out with rolling pins
31. hop or jump along the letter lines.

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

32. colored glue
33. yarn and glue
34. dry Jello and glue
35. puff paint
36. glue and sand or cornmeal

**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:**

37. Magna-doodles
38. clay trays (Styrofoam tray with clay spread on it. Use a dowel to write the letters in the clay.)
39. black boards
40. dry-erase boards
41. paper with sandpaper under it
42. paper with a bumpy board 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. Letter cards can have paperclips placed on them.
46. Complete an alphabet puzzle of all the letters or sequence alphabet cards.
47. Make alphabet cards and cut them into half; have students match them.
48. Have students match upper and lowercase alphabet letters.
49. Find letters in magazines, books, on cereal boxes and other household items.
50. Hide letters in sand, rice and beans, or birdseed and have students find them and identify them by feeling them.