

Writing Resources Workbook



Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

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Shaving Cream Letters Activity

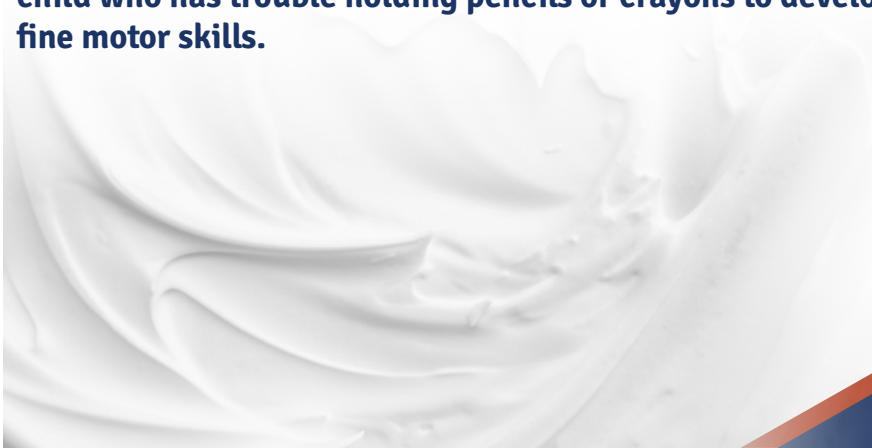
MATERIALS:

- Shaving Cream
- Paper plate, tray, or other container
- Flash Cards
- Optional: food coloring

ACTIVITY:

- Pour a small amount of shaving cream onto a paper plate, tray, or other container
- Allow the child to practice tracing letters, words, or shapes using his or her finger
- The child can also use a stick or paintbrush
- Letter flash cards or other letters, such as magnets or felt letters, can be used to provide examples of the letters you want the children to practice.
- Clean up after!

BENEFITS: Using shaving cream provides sensory input, while the child practices making letters, words, and shapes. It can also help a child who has trouble holding pencils or crayons to develop his or her fine motor skills.



Playdough Letters Activity

MATERIALS:

- Playdough
- Letter flash cards, felt letters, or other letters to serve as a model
- Paintbrush, pencil, or other writing tool

ACTIVITY 1:

- Laminate flashcards of letters, numbers, and shapes
- Give the child some playdough
- Have the child make the letters and place them over the flashcards
- The child can also use the flashcards as a model

ACTIVITY 2:

- Roll out some playdough so it is thin, but not too thin!
- Give the child a pencil, paintbrush, or other safe pointed tool
- Allow the child to “write” in the playdough

BENEFITS: Using playdough to begin practicing letter formation provides the child the tactile feedback to learn how letters should look and be shaped. The texture and different colors of playdough can also serve as a motivation for the child to participate in the activity.



Line Practice Activity

MATERIALS:

- Line practice worksheets
- Adapted writing tools as needed.
Examples: chubby crayons, writing grips, larger pencils, highlighter
- Color contrasted paper as needed

ACTIVITY:

- Provide materials to the child
- Model tracing one of the lines for the child
- Allow the child to use the adapted writing tools to practice tracing the line
- If it is the child's first time doing the activity, have the child trace the line with his or her finger first

BENEFITS: Tracing lines is the first step in learning how to write. As children practice tracing different types of lines, including straight lines, curved lines, and zigzags, they begin practicing the different strokes found in the letters of the alphabet.



Obstacle Course Maze Activity

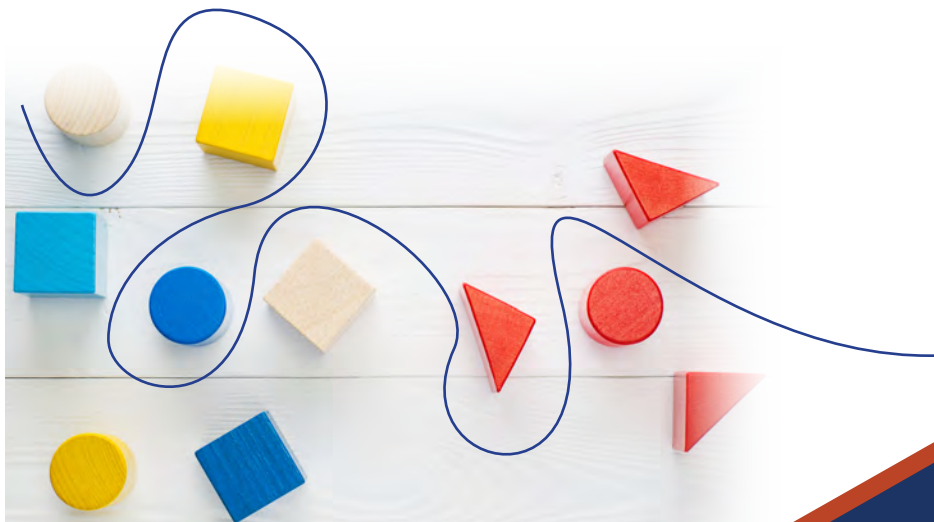
MATERIALS:

- Blocks or other small objects
- Paper
- Adapted writing tools as needed

ACTIVITY:

- Place the blocks or other small objects around the paper
- Using an adapted writing tool, have the child draw a line or maze around the objects
- Encourage the child not to bump into any of the objects
- Remember to model the activity the first time to help the child learn how to complete the activity.

BENEFITS: Having the child focus on the blocks on a page encourages the hand eye coordination necessary for writing. As the child draws or traces the maze, he or she will also practice the curves and strokes necessary for writing letters and numbers. This activity also strengthens fine motor development.



Secret Letters Activity

MATERIALS:

- White crayon
- White paper
- Water
- Water paints
- Paint brushes and adapted paint brushes
- Paper towel



ACTIVITY:

- Prepare the activity by using a white crayon to write letters, numbers, and even secret messages on white paper
- Have the child use the water paints to paint on the paper and reveal the secret letters
- Have the child make his or her own letters and shapes on white paper with white crayon and have another friend reveal the secret message

BENEFITS: Using a paintbrush helps the child improve his or her fine motor skills and learn to control a writing tool. Also, it can help them practice letter recognition as they reveal the shapes and letters.



Bubble Letter Tracing Activity

MATERIALS:

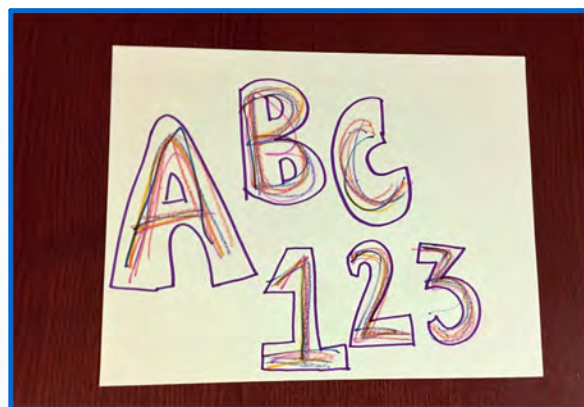
- Paper
- Marker
- Adapted writing tools

ACTIVITY:

- To prepare for the activity use a black or dark colored marker and write the child's name or other letters in a big bubble shapes (see picture below)
- Provide the child with various adapted writing tools as needed and have him or her trace the letters with different colors and shapes

BENEFITS: Using big, bold, bubble letters allows the child to practice the shapes and strokes involved in writing letters. The consistent practice of using different colors motivates the child to continue writing the letter. Different materials can be used to create a multi-color, multi-sensory drawing.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Hair Gel Ziploc Bags Activity

MATERIALS:

- Ziploc bags
- Colorful hair gel or clear hair gel and food coloring
- Glitter or plastic confetti
- Duct tape

PREPARING THE ZIPLOC BAGS:

- Take a Ziploc bag (quart or gallon works best)
- Fill with hair gel, about 1/4 cup. Do not fill it too much
- Add glitter, plastic confetti, or other small sensory toy. Nothing sharp!
- Close the Ziploc bag and secure with duct tape

ACTIVITY:

- Allow the child to practice letters, numbers, and shapes using the Ziploc bag
- Use the child's finger or small (not sharp) object, such as the eraser end of a pencil, to draw the target letters, numbers or shapes



- **BENEFITS:** This activity provides visual and sensorial stimulation for the child. The cold, 'squishy' feeling of the gel along with the colors are engaging and motivating!

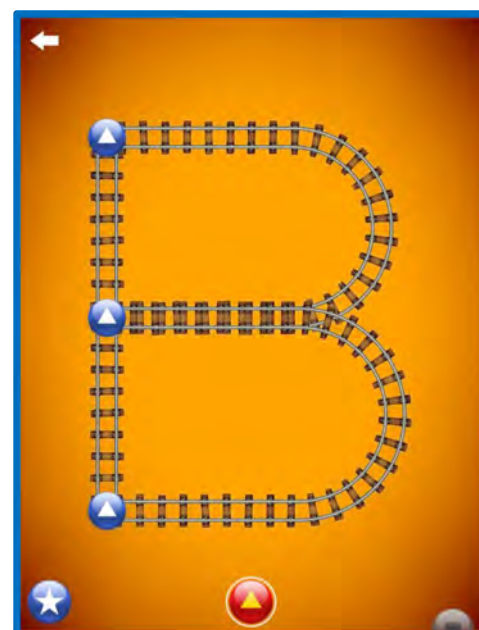
Letter School App. Activity

HOW THE APP WORKS:

- The child selects a letter he or she wants to practice
- There are three buttons on the bottom of the screen, each representing a level of assistance
 - In the first level, the child taps the beginning of the line or curve in the letter, and an animation appears to show how to create the line or curve
 - In the second level, the child traces the line or curve with a visual cue on the screen
 - In the third level, the child writes the letter independently, without the assistance of a visual cue

ACTIVITY:

- First, show the child how the app works by modeling how to go through the three levels of assistance with a specific letter
- Have the child select a letter he or she wants to practice. Provide prompts to the child as needed
- Before the child moves from the second to the third level, have the child practice writing the letter in the air, then tell him or her to practice it on the iPad
- As the child completes the letters, have him or her identify the sound as well as a word (other than the one that appears in the app!) that starts with the same letter



My Storybook Creator App. Activity

HOW THE APP WORKS:

- This app allows the child to create his or her own storybooks. The books are completely editable allowing the user to change: the color of the page, font sizes, add images, add text, add audio, name the story, and more!



ACTIVITY:

- Create a new author so the child can begin creating his or her story
- Let the child create a title for the book and select a color for the cover
 - When creating the title, the app automatically capitalizes the first letter of each word in the title – point this out to the child to teach him or her how titles are always capitalized!
- Guide the child in creating a few pages in his or her own story. Encourage the child to write and draw his or her own shapes. Follow the lead of the child, so he or she takes ownership of his story
- When the child finishes creating the visual for the page, press on the microphone icon on the bottom right of the screen and have the child record his or her own voice to tell the story
- When the child is done creating the story, you can share the story with the child's parents
- Share the story with the child's classmates as part of a shared reading activity or during circle time!



Finger Paint App. Activity

HOW THE APP WORKS:

- This app uses touch to create different images on the screen. One of the features includes audio: as the child creates lines and shapes, the iPad music or sound effects playback. The child can change the colors as well as the sounds that play. The app provides visual and audio feedback to whatever the child is producing.

ACTIVITY:

- Have the child begin exploring the different colors and sounds
- Ask the child to draw different lines, letters, shapes, and numbers
- Some hand over hand prompting can be used when necessary, but allow the child to feel free to explore the colors and sounds

