





Letter Formation Ideas at Home

Below are some ideas you may wish to send home to families to encourage their young children to write and explore with letters at home. Many of the ideas consider items families may have at home.

	<p>Go outside and gather some rocks! Use a sharpie to write lowercase and/or uppercase letters on them. What words can you make? Try making some common words like names in your family. Try making words that rhyme (cat/mat/sat). Try making some words that you see a lot of in books (the, is, me).</p> <p>You can add trucks and egg cartons to 'deliver the rocks' to the egg cartons to make specific words.</p>
	<p>Put some sand or salt in a small, flat container! Have your child use a finger or chopstick to try drawing some letters. Simply give it a light shake to erase.</p> <p>If you have lots of sand/salt, you can also try this in a cookie sheet to write words, or even pictures!</p>
	<p>Use any loose items around the home to create letters. Buttons, pennies, toys, macaroni noodles, cotton balls, uncooked beans, cereal, etc.</p>
	<p>Use cooked spaghetti noodles to form letters. Start with your name, or write words around your home or from books. If your child is learning new letters, write them on a piece of paper and have your child place the noodles onto the letters. If your child doesn't require guidance of the letters, have them create words on a cookie sheet, piece of foil or wax paper.</p>
	<p>If you have a simple playdough recipe, children can create words and letter from playdough.</p>

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	<p>Go on a walk with a family member, collect small sticks and rocks and see what letters you can make from what you find.</p>
	<p>Go outside and write letters and words in the dirt with a stick.</p>
	<p>Walk around your neighbourhood and look for items around you that look like letters. Can you trace them with your finger?</p>
	<p>Have the child play a guessing game with a family member: Trace a letter into the other person's hand (or on their back) with your finger. See if you can guess the letter. Switch turns to allow the child to both trace and guess.</p>
	<p>Fill a large Ziploc bag about ¼ full with gel (like hairgel, or shampoo). Close tightly and use to draw letters, pictures and words with index finger.</p>
	<p>Families can provide opportunities for children to playfully draw and write letters with any writing tools that are available at home (pens, crayons, markers, chalk, pencils, highlighters, etc.). They could also be encouraged to use any paper that is around the home (newspaper, envelopes from the mail, cereal boxes, scrap paper, etc.)</p>

Idea c/o [PlayingWithLightning](#) (@FDK Lightning on Twitter)

