

Parent Guide



@twinklparents



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What is this resource and how do I use it?

Letter formation is a really important skill for your child to develop - luckily, there are lots of practical games and activities you can do at home with ease! If your child has started school, you might want to double-check with their teacher what style or mantras they might use at school to help children remember the way to form their letters.

What is the focus of this resource?

Letter Formation

Handwriting

Advice for Parents

Further Ideas and Suggestions

If your child has started phonics at school, you might find this **Phase 2 Phonics Learning at Home Letter Formation Practice Booklet** helpful to support them with their letter formation. Is your child left-handed? Try our popular **Letter Formation Practice for Left Handers: Magical Theme booklet**.

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Practical Games for Learning Letter Formation at Home



Letter formation is a practical skill and your child will really benefit from practical activities and games to help them develop their letter formation skills. Try some of these activities and games at home to support your child in their learning.

Use Sensory Trays

A good old sensory tray has so many uses! Depending on how messy you and your child like to get, pour some dry rice, flour, sand, lentils, paint or whatever you have into a shallow tray. Then, encourage your child to copy letters into the sensory tray - we have lots of letter formation cards here that you can laminate and use to support your child with this. Sensory trays are great because they engage your child in their learning and allow them to wipe the marks away with ease - this can really help your child develop in confidence too.

Use the Carpet

Another sensory activity but one that you don't need to set anything up for! You could trace the letters your child is practising on the carpet with your finger and they could then trace over the top with their finger. Or, as they get more confident, tell them or show them a letter to try forming on their own.



Bathtime Letter Formation

If you have them, make use of your child's foam letters. Encourage them to find and trace the letters as you call them out.



Disclaimer: Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks (such as the risk of choking from small objects) before the activity, and only proceed if it is safe to do so. We cannot be held responsible for the health and safety of those participating and cannot accept any liability. By using this resource, you acknowledge that it is the responsibility of supervising adults to ensure the safety of children in their care.

Practical Games for Learning Letter Formation at Home

Play I Spy

... with letter formation! Instead of saying the initial letter, you and your child have to draw the letter. This might be on a whiteboard, a piece of paper, in the air, on the carpet or on each other's palms. Of course, it's important to get the formation correct so that the other person knows what letter they are thinking about - especially useful for practising commonly mixed-up letters like b and d or similar letters like m and n.

Play Bingo

Use paper, a whiteboard (or makeshift whiteboard made from a DVD case and piece of paper) and a dry wipe pen or whatever you have to play bingo. Support your child to split the page into four sections by drawing a line down the middle and across the middle. Then, they draw a different letter in each box they have made. Call out letters and encourage your child to tick them off as their letters are called. The first person to get all four letters ticked off is the winner!



Calming Massage



A nice calming activity that you can do when you or your child needs a bit of wind down time. You can trace letters on your child's palm, back or tummy and ask them to tell you what letter it was (even if they're not drawing the letter, they will need to use the skills like knowing where letters start and the direction the letter goes to be able to guess what letter it is).

Practical Games for Learning Letter Formation at Home

Odd One Out

Keep this idea in your back pocket - it's great for mealtimes or when out and about, as well as at home! Simply write down three letters - two the same, one different - and ask your child to identify the odd one out. As they get more confident, your child could have a turn writing down the letters too.



Paint Over Chalk Letters

A good one for outside play, draw some large letters with chalk and give your child a paintbrush and water, encouraging them to trace over the chalk letters to make them disappear. Really focus on them starting in the correct place and following the shape of the letter around in the correct direction - although, do be prepared for them to have a little free play with it too!



Play Tic-Tac-Toe

This one is another good game for really focusing on a letter that your child may be finding tricky. Simply choose a letter each and play a letter formation version of tic-tac-toe.