

Connect-the-dots with letters



Hands on as We Grow came up with a letter familiarity activity that will get your little ones moving and their creative juices flowing. Good, old connect-the-dots gets revamped when you write a handful of repeating letters in random patterns down a length of butcher's paper. Kids can connect the letters in any way they like so long as all of the *G*'s are connected to the other *G*'s and so on.

Alphabet knock down

Toddler Approved came up with this fantastic letter recognition game, especially recommended for kids who love knocking things over. The preparation is minimal and only requires a pool noodle, some popsicle sticks and letter stickers. Once you've made the letters on their pool-noodle feet, give your child a ball, call out a letter and see if they can knock it down!

6. Children's book in a bottle Her post on **Teach Preschool** includes directions, materials and even pictures for easy reference.



Discovery Bottle Inspiration

For each literacy discovery bottle I have made, I simply looked around for a few small objects that represent an idea, character, or object from a book we have read in class. After reading *Elmer*, for example, I added a few colorful square blocks that I had on hand. This set of small blocks have always reminded me of the colors and squares in Elmer's patchwork coat. I also added a small toy elephant to the bottle.

Magic letter painting

Grab some white note cards, a white wax crayon, some watercolor paints and paint brushes for this activity from [**Mas & Pas**](#). Use the crayon to write letters on the note cards (you'll need to press firmly to make the "magic" work.) Give your kiddos some paint and brushes, and tell them to begin painting over the card. Watch their eyes light up when a magic letter is revealed! Ask them what letter it is and what sound it makes.

Number match-slap game

A deck of cards and some duct tape can transform any wall into a correspondence and number recognition system. [**Hands on as We Grow**](#) came up with this activity for preschoolers to "slap" a pre-taped card to its matching card on the wall. This one could even turn into a class scavenger hunt with cards taped on surfaces throughout the room.

Alphabet rocks

If you (or your kiddos) have the time to collect 52 rocks, this uppercase and lowercase literacy activity could begin in the great outdoors. Wash the rocks, and write an uppercase letter on one side, with the corresponding lowercase letter on the opposite side. Then show words or pictures on index cards, and challenge kids to recreate the word. Meredith at [**Homegrown Friends**](#) says the rocks' weight and texture was a big hit with her little ones.

