

Take a look at more toddlers learning letters

The Trick Is Texture

Ms. Kim, who teaches toddlers, often co-teaches with her center's early intervention specialist, Ms. Bella. They are focusing on activities that can promote literacy skills for young children. Ms. Kim notices that many of her toddlers tend to prefer toys that are interesting to touch. They do not show much interest in the flat alphabet cards she has in the classroom. Ms. Bella helps her and the children make a set of textured alphabet letters. The adults cut large letter shapes out of sturdy cardboard. The children glue bits of sandpaper and a variety of textured fabric and wallpaper scraps onto each letter. While they work, Ms. Kim talks to them about the letters on which they are working. The children enjoy participating in this project, and the textured letters become favorite classroom materials.



Find Your Letter!

Kaeden, 31 months old, loves playing with Victor, his home visitor. One day Victor brings a collection of rubber stamps and different colored ink pads. Victor sets a big piece of paper on Kaeden's kitchen table and sets out the box of stamps. "Look, Mom," Kaeden says. "He got some letters." "Should we try to stamp something with the letters?" his mom asks, but Kaeden is already busy stamping away. He gives Victor and his mom each a letter, and directs them to stamp on the paper too. "Look, you have K," Victor says to Kaeden. "You found your letter!" "What's your letter?" Kaeden asks him, and they both search for a V for Victor to use. "What about your mom?" Victor asks. "M for Mom," Kaeden's mom laughs, and they each stamp their letters and add designs with their favorite stamps.

Letter Towers

Mr. Mike plays with alphabet blocks alongside a few children in his inclusive class of toddlers. One of the children, Brandon, has low muscle tone and poor trunk control. Mr. Mike positions Brandon with bolsters so he can stay upright successfully and reach for the blocks around him. "Brandon, what are you building?" Mr. Mike asks. "Tower," Brandon answers, as the other children stack the blocks on top of each other, hoping to knock them down. "Okay, let's try it," Mr. Mike says. He steadies Brandon's hand by holding his wrist as Brandon guides a block onto the stack. "Great!" Mr. Mike says. "And look at the letter on this block. This is a B, like in your name. B for Brandon." Brandon looks at the block and reaches for another one. "This my name?" he asks. "Nope, that one is A, like in Annie's name," Mr. Mike says, pointing to a child playing nearby. Brandon places the A block atop the tower, and knocks the tower down with a satisfying crash.

