



Sandpaper Letters ?

Classic Montessori Literacy

Sandpaper Letters

This material, developed by Dr. Montessori, consists of each letter formed with "sandpaper" texture mounted on its own board.

- Vowels on blue and consonants on pink
- Cursive or a print font



The sandpaper letters have a dual purpose in the early childhood classroom.

- To further prepare the hand for writing symbols.
- To teach letter sounds using a visual, auditory, and kinesthetic presentation to the child.



The Lesson



- The teacher, or guide, observing that a child has an interest in the sandpaper letters, invites her to a lesson.
- Using two fingers, the teacher traces the letter, as it would be formed when writing, and says the sound of that letter.
- This process is repeated 3 times.
- The teacher invites the child to trace the letter and say the sound.

Extensions on the basic lesson

- ✓ Words that start with the sound of the sandpaper letter.
- ✓ Objects that start with sound of the sandpaper letter.
- ✓ Spelling C-V-C words with the sandpaper letters.



The Montessori Teacher

- Highly trained to know when, how, and why to give your child a sandpaper letter lesson.
- Teaches letters in a specific sequence.
- Keeps exact records to track sounds your child knows and at what level of mastery.
- Knows how to individualize the instruction/lessons your child receives.
- Trust her abilities, her knowledge, and her observations of your child.

Ideas for the Home

Follow the interests of your child.
(Pushing only results in a child who dislikes letters, words, and reading.)

Read, read, and read some more!



Have conversations with your child.
Give him a chance to share his thoughts, feelings,
ideas, and listen.

Make up stories together- just for fun!

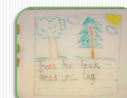


Provide writing activities for the child who is interested.

(grocery list, cards and letters, thank you notes and be accepting of "invented" or transitional spelling)

Limit screen time.

(all screens- tv, computer, Ipads, and cell phones)



Thank you!

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Thanks for Joining us today!

Next week - Hillary Drinkell will be back to show us how stories and myths can help children work through challenging life situations.

Remember that there will be no sessions for the next two weeks after that as we are closed for the Winter Break.

Enjoy the holidays!