6 by 6 Interactive Spaces: Alphabet Under Construction

Guidelines: There may be more than 1 activity or sign under each skill area. Signs should brief, but explain what to do and why it's important.

Skill area - Talk, Talk, Talk

- 1. Activity Touch and Talk
- Sign(s): (with toucan graphic)
- Touch these letters and describe how they feel.
 - Sometimes there are many ways to say the same thing. As you talk to your child, try using some unusual words he or she may not hear very often.
- Supplies: Tactile letters, upper and lower case
- 2. Activity Measuring and Look
- Signs:
- Use the tape measure to measure objects around the library. Help children record the results. Use a magnifying glass to look for letters on walls and shelves. Talk about what you see.

The more words children know and hear, the easier it will be for them to learn to read.

Skill area – **Look for Letters Everywhere**

- 1. Activity K is kinked.
- Sign(s): (with peacock graphic)
- Bend and connect these fuzzy sticks to make letters.
 - Can you make the first letter of your name?
 - Looking for letters in unexpected places helps build 'letter awareness'.
- Supplies: Pipe Cleaners
- 2. Activity Letter Rubbings
- Sign:
- Place a piece of paper over a random letter. What letter emerges as you rub the long side of a crayon over the paper?
 - Repeated experiences playing with letters is a good way to reinforce how they look.
- Supplies: Tactile letters; Paper; Crayons

Skill Area – Notice Print All Around You

- 1. Activity Name Game.
- Sign(s): (with kangaroo graphic)
- Find the page that has the first letter of your name on it. Use a marker to write your name on that paper.
 - Looking for letters and words in the environment helps children learn that printed text is important.
- Supplies: Large letters A-Z on laminated card stock held together with books rings; washable crayons and/or water-based markers.
- 2. Activity Upside Down
- Signs: This poster is upside down on purpose! Try handing your child an upside down books and see if he/she turns it right side up.
 - This is an indicator for Notice Print Everywhere.
- Supplies poster

Skill Area – Tell Stories About Everything

1. Matching letter sounds

- Signs: (with turtle graphic)
- Hanging hardware

Match the first letter of the pictured tool with the magnetic clip.

This makes looking for letters fun and also helps develop the fine motor skills necessary for holding a pencil and turning pages.

- As you do this activity ask questions like:

What do you think that tool does?

How would you use it?

What do people make with these tools?

What would you make with these tools?

Have you ever seen a tool like that? Where was it?

- Supplies:
 - Magnetic letter clips (Kaplan Early Learning)
 - o Pictures of paint, saw, ruler, hammer, etc.
- 2. Activity Tower Going Up
- Signs: Can you put these pictures of the Eiffel Tower construction in order? Sequencing photographs and objects helps kids recognize beginning, middle and end. This helps with comprehension.

Skill Area - Take Time to Rhyme, Sing & Play Word Games

- 1. Activity Button, Zip, Lace, Snap
- Signs(s): (with goat graphic)
- Listen to the beginning sounds of these words.

What happens if you replace the /L/ sound in Lace with the /F/ sound?

What happens to *Button* if you leave off the /b/ sound and replace it with an /z/ sound? Being able to hear and manipulate the smaller sounds in words is an important part of learning to read. Most children who have difficulty reading are having trouble with this ability.

- Supplies:
 - o 4 Dressing frames

Overall skill area – Have Fun With Books

- 1. Activity Make-A-Letter
- Signs: (monkey)

Look at the poster and try to make a letter with your body.

Developing large motor skills helps prepare your child for fine motor skills like following words on a page and holding a pencil.

- Supplies: poster
- 2. Activity Gears in motion
- Signs: Look for and follow the shapes and patterns.

Recognizing shapes helps children learn to recognize letters. Find fun ways to help your child learn the alphabet.

• Supplies: set of gears

Alphabet Under Construction Early Literacy Kit contents

Sent	Returned
Tactile letters – upper and lower case for Letter Rubbings (Lakeshore \$14.95)	
Starter set of chubby crayons and paper for Letter Rubbings (US Toy)	
Measure and Look Center includes:	
Two large tape measures (Lakeshore or US Toy \$7.95)	
Protractor, 2 rulers (Target)	
Cloth measuring tape (JoAnns)	
Alphabet letters from the book to tape up around the library	
6 magnifying glasses (US Toy or Lakeshore)	
1 clipboard with recording sheets	
4 dressing frames; Button, Zip, Lace, Snap (US Toy \$39.99)	
Name Game includes	
2 sets of alphabet letters on laminated card stock with book rings;	
Set of washable crayons	
Set of washable markers	
Alphaclips – upper and lower case (Kaplan \$19.95 each)	
Starter set of Pipe Cleanser for K is Kinked	
set of Turn and Learn Magnetic Gears (Lakeshore \$19.95)	
2 paperback copies of "Alphabet Under Construction"	
(Not for checkout)	
2 sets of Tower Going Up pictures	
1 Large knob 4-piece puzzle	
Signs	
(also available at g:>ysdept>6by6>alphabet under construction>alpha sig	ns)
Poster Tube includes:	
Make-A-Letter with your body	
READ upside down	
NLAD upside down	

What you'll need to provide
Replacement paper and crayons for rubbings
Replacement pipe cleaners
Magnetic tape (if you want to use the Tower Going Up on magnet board)
Containers

