



ACTIVITY 4: ALPHABET CUTOUTS

AGE: Preschoolers

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Old magazines
- Scissors
- Paper
- Glue
- Markers or crayons

PURPOSE

Young children love to create all kinds of art, particularly when it includes using scissors and glue! This activity puts your old catalogues and magazines to good use by giving your child many different pictures to cut out and glue to a piece of paper. This will help your child strengthen and develop the small muscles in their hands. By helping your child find pictures that go with certain letters of the alphabet, you are also helping your child begin to recognize letters and the sounds that they make.



This activity relates to the Motor Development and Coordination element in the **Growing, Moving and Being Healthy** domain of the VELs.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1. Choose a letter of the alphabet. Write it on a piece of paper, or show your child how to write it themselves.
2. Talk with your child about the sound the letter makes; ask your child to try to say the sound after you. Ask your child for some ideas of words that start with that same sound (such as “ball” for the letter B).
3. Together, look for pictures in the magazine that start with the letter you chose. You can help your child find pictures as well by saying, “I see something that starts with the letter S” and giving them clues, such as where it is on the page.



4. When your child finds a picture that matches the letter, ask your child to cut it out. If you need to, you can help your child cut out the picture. You may get it started, or even put your hand over your child's hand to help.



5. Ask your child to glue the pictures on the paper.

- » Glue sticks will help your child coordinate his/her hands together, as one hand holds the picture while the other puts glue on the back.
- » Or, show your child how to squeeze out small dots of glue from a bottle, which will help your child develop strength and control in his/her hands.



Once your child's picture is finished, let it dry then hang it up on the refrigerator or on a wall. You can also clip or staple the different letter collages together and create a book that you and your child can look at and read anytime.

SWITCH IT UP!

Here are some different ways that you and your child can do this activity throughout your day together.

- Visit your local library and find books about the alphabet. Read these books with your child, then have your child create their own alphabet book based on the ones that you read. They can cut out pictures, or draw things that start with the letters.
- As your child chooses pictures to cut out, use a marker to draw a close border around the picture. Help your child cut out the picture on the line.
- Instead of an alphabet picture, ask your child to make a picture of things they like. Help your child find things like favorite foods, colors, animals, or toys in the magazines and catalogues.



BRIDGING ACROSS DOMAINS

These are ways to work on other areas of development (or bridge across domains) during the same activity.

- **Language:** As you and your child find pictures, say the word for each picture and talk about it. As your child gets older, you can ask them questions about the picture (for example, what would it be like to have a dog? Why would you like to be firefighter someday?) or to make up a story about the picture.
- **Thinking in categories:** Come up with a category, for example animals. Have your child go through the entire magazine and circle all the pictures of animals they can find.

