

**Curriculum topics:**

- Letter Recognition
- Primary Spelling
- Phonics
- Following Directions

**Subject:**

**Language Arts**

**Grade range:**

**Pre-K – 3**

**Who we are:**

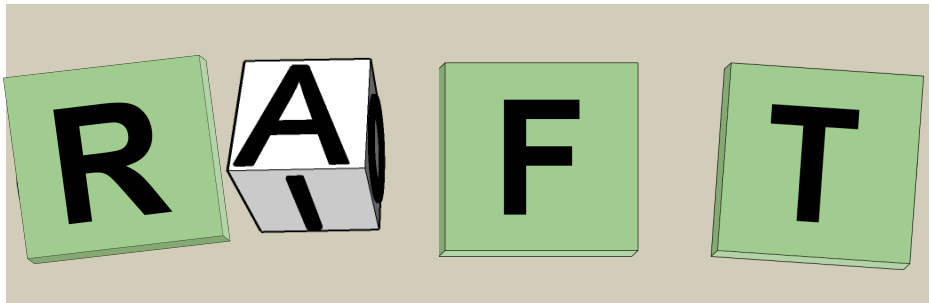
Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) helps educators transform the learning experience through affordable “hands-on” activities that engage students and inspire the joy and discovery of learning.

For more ideas and to see RAFT Locations

[www.raft.net/visit-raft-locations](http://www.raft.net/visit-raft-locations)

# ALPHABET MIX

Fun making simple words



Students connect letters with their related sounds and will enjoy creating and learning new words with this engaging activity.

## Materials required

For each activity station (for 1 to 4 students):

- 40 1” foam squares
- Blank die or cube, large
- Alphabet stickers that will fit on foam squares (2 copies of each consonant, one of each vowel), upper case or lower case as desired, or permanent marker
- Paper and pencils
- 1-minute timer
- Optional: bag or box for squares
- Optional: work-mats

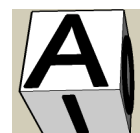


**WARNING:**

**CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts  
Not for children under 3 yrs.**

## Preparation before the activity

- 1 Create letter squares:** For each consonant, put a letter sticker or write the letter on top of each foam square – make 2 for each consonant. Optional: put squares in bag.
- 2 Create vowel die:** Use letter stickers or a permanent marker to put A, E, I, O, U, and Y on the sides of the blank die.



## Curriculum Standards:

Letter & Word Knowledge (Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Language and Literacy Development, 21)

Taking Turns & Cooperative play (Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Self-Social Development, 5 & 8)

Gross Motor & Fine Motor Skills (Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Physical Development, 38 & 40)

Print Concepts (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Grade K, Reading Foundational Skills, 1)

Phonics and Word Recognition (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Grades K-2, Reading Foundational Skills, 3)

# To do and notice (for 1 – 4 students)

- 1 Place the letter squares letter side down on a table and mix.
- 2 Each student draws four or more letter squares (depending on students' level) and places the squares on a mat (if used).
- 3 The youngest student rolls the vowel die and starts the timer.
- 4 Using their own letter squares and the common vowel, each student sees how many words they can make in 1 minute. The students write down their words.
- 5 Repeat, with each student rolling the vowel die in turn. Each time all students use the same vowel – and their own letter squares. If a vowel is repeated from an early roll – roll again.
- 6 After each student has rolled the die, all letter squares are returned to the table, mixed, and new squares are drawn.
- 7 The activity is complete after each student has a chance to roll the die a designated number of times. Students share the words they created.

## The content behind the activity

Students with larger vocabularies can acquire new words more easily, are more effective readers, and are more proficient in reading comprehension. This activity helps increase awareness of letters and their associated sounds and helps make learning new words fun and interesting. When observing this activity the teacher can assess the students' level of knowledge.

## Learn more

- Have students draw more squares and/or roll the vowel die 2 or more times to increase the number of letters that they can use to make words.
- As a class, review and discuss the different word that everyone created.
- Have students define the created words.
- Make sentences from the created words.

**Related activities:** See RAFT Idea Sheets:

*In the Bag* –

[http://www.raft.net/ideas/In the Bag.pdf](http://www.raft.net/ideas/In%20the%20Bag.pdf)

*Slick and Tactile Letters* –

[http://www.raft.net/ideas/Slick and Tactile Letters.pdf](http://www.raft.net/ideas/Slick%20and%20Tactile%20Letters.pdf)

*Word Wise* –

[http://www.raft.net/ideas/Word Wise.pdf](http://www.raft.net/ideas/Word%20Wise.pdf)

## Resources

Visit [www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=727](http://www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=727) for “how-to” video demos & more ideas! See these websites for more information on the following topics:

- **Phonics worksheets** - <http://www.kidzone.ws/phonics/index.htm>