

Topics: Letter Recognition, Phonics, Primary Spelling

Materials List

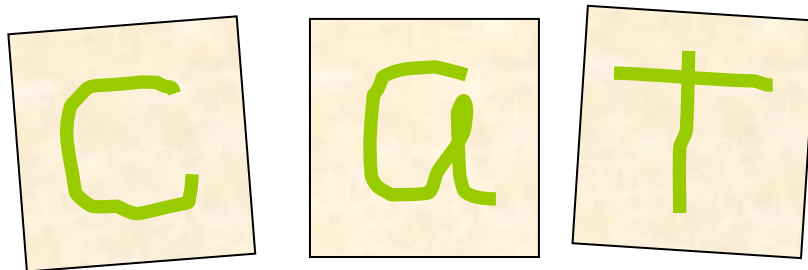
- ✓ Thick material: cardstock, matte board, or mouse pads
- ✓ Slick, dimensional fabric paint

This activity can be used to teach:

- Match sounds to letters (Early Childhood & CA English Standards: Grade K, Reading, 1.14)
- Sounds of letters & letter patterns blended into words (CA English Standards: Grade 1, Reading, 1.10)
- Read simple words (CA English Standards: Grade K, Reading, 1.15)
- Read common, irregular sight words (CA English Standards: Grade 1, Reading, 1.11)

Slick & Tactile Letters

Feeling Your Way through the Alphabet



Students can trace these slick letters with their fingertips to reinforce letter shapes and sounds, blends, and even for spelling.

Assembly

1. Cut thick, sturdy material to desired size (about 10 cm x 12 cm works well).
2. Use thin-tipped applicator bottle to apply fabric paint in large, letter shapes onto the thick material. Create the whole alphabet, plus multiples of vowels and common letters, as desired.
3. Allow paint to dry thoroughly (at least 1 day).

To Do and Notice

Students can use these letters in several ways, depending on their academic level:

- For students just learning letters and sounds: students trace appropriate letters as teachers say words beginning with that sound (e.g., as the teacher says, “sss-nake”, the student traces the “s”. Follow with “sss-oap”, “sss-ign”, “sss-un”, and other “s” words.)
- For students beginning to read simple words: students can place letters in order to spell a word and then sound out the word as they trace the letters.
- For students practicing spelling: students use the tactile letters to make a word of choice. They then read the word, spell the word letter by letter as they trace, and then read the word again. (e.g., student reads, “boat”; say “b”, “o”, “a”, “t” as she traces the letters; and then reads “boat” again.)

The Content Behind the Activity

There are 4 main types of learning styles: auditory (by hearing), visual (by seeing), tactile (by feeling), and kinesthetic (by moving). Tactile and kinesthetic learners often have challenges in a traditional classroom environment, because their bodies have difficulty sitting for long periods of time and they learn best when they are touching materials. *Slick & Tactile Letters* helps tactile and kinesthetic learners with letters, basic phonics, and simple spelling by offering meaningful and effective input for their learning styles. A significant percentage of young learners, in particular, learn best by touch and manipulating realia.

Taking it Further

Use scissors or die-cutting equipment to cut out large letters from other highly textured materials (e.g., sandpaper). Mount these letters onto sturdy material and use them in the same ways as the *Slick & Tactile Letters*.

Web Resources - Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!