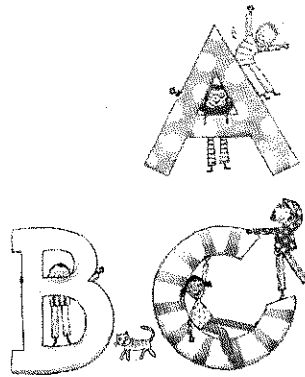


ABC Collection Bags

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to name and identify each letter of the alphabet as well as to isolate sounds within a word and associate a letter with each of those sounds.



Materials

- ◆ collection of small toys or trinkets
- ◆ 26 resealable plastic bags or small boxes (the ones bank checks come in work well)
- ◆ marker

What to do

Most children have a collection of small toys or other trinkets that seem to accumulate in the bottom of the toy box. Turn these into a letter/sound activity for your child.

Label 26 resealable plastic bags (or tubs or small boxes) with the letters of the alphabet. Help your child sort through the small toys, emphasizing the beginning sound of each one. Help him or her place each one in the appropriately labeled bag.

Extending the activity

- ✦ After a few objects are sorted, select two or three bags with letters that are familiar to your child. Mix those objects and ask your child to sort them back into the correct bag. Help him or her say the beginning sound of each object and remind him or her of the letter associated with that sound.

Phonological Awareness

ABC Collection Boxes (continued)

- ❖ Finding small objects for this activity can involve all family members. Small toys that are used as birthday party favors or purchased at dollar stores make great additions to the collection. Assign family members a letter and challenge them to find small objects that match that letter. Help your child be the final judge of which objects go in which bags, reminding him or her that there can be numerous names for the same object, such as dog, puppy, or terrier.

More questions to ask

Ask your child to create rhyming words by changing the first sound in a word. For example, if one of the objects is a toy boat, you and your child could change the /b/ sound to a /g/ to create *goat*, to /n/ to create *note*, and so on.

What your child is practicing

Learning which letter goes with which sound can be a confusing task for young children. By associating words with the same beginning sound, your child learns that the same sounds and letters are used over and over for different words.