



HEADS IN, HEARTS IN

Letter Hunt

Instructions for Set-Up

Supplies

- “Guide for Families” handout
- Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- Foam letters (the kind you would use in a bathtub)
- Large durable paper
- Markers
- Cornmeal (at least 1 pound)
- Medium- or large-sized plastic tub
- Display table

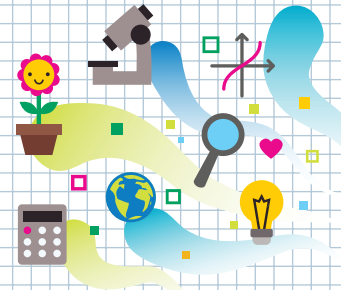
Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Using the markers, trace the foam letters on to several durable paper sheets. Place on table.
- ▶ Place cornmeal in the plastic tub.
- ▶ Place the tub of cornmeal on the floor or other stable location where children will be safe looking for letters.
- ▶ Place the foam letters on the table.





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Letter Hunt Guide for Families

Learning Objectives

What you need to know:

Sensory skills and **literacy skills** are important parts of early childhood development.

Sensory play, or play that involves the senses, is important for young children. When they are free to play using touch, sight, smell, taste, movement and balance, children learn about the world around them in a fun way.

Early **literacy skills** play a big role in a child's school success, and it's crucial that children have lots of opportunities to practice them.

What you will do and learn:

You will encourage the child to search for the hidden letters in the cornmeal and then match each letter up with the letter on the letter sheets.

Instructions

1. Hide about 10 to 15 foam letters in the tub of cornmeal.
2. Encourage the child to look and feel for the foam letters in the cornmeal.
3. When he or she finds a letter, exclaim in an enthusiastic tone, "You found one!" Your excitement will be contagious and will make this a fun learning activity.
4. When the child finds a letter, help him or her place it on top of the matching letter on the letter sheet.
5. Encourage the child to name the letter, think of a word that starts with that letter or make the sound that the letter makes.