

SCHOOL SENSORY BINS

PRINTABLE PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

MATH • LITERACY • FINE MOTOR



Lavinia Pop

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Lavinia

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PRINTING TIP This resource is designed for US Letter paper. Print at Actual Size or 100% to preserve the intended card and mat dimensions. If printing on another paper size, select Fit or Shrink to Printable Area and use the same scaling setting for all related pages.

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What's Included & Skills at a Glance

This resource includes five hands-on sensory bin activity sets for practicing early literacy, math, sorting, name recognition, and fine motor skills. Use the activities during centers, morning tubs, small groups, intervention, or homeschool learning.

PACK THE BACKPACK

Children choose a packing list, find the matching school supply cards, and place them on the backpack mat.

Skills: Visual matching • Following directions • School vocabulary • Visual discrimination • Fine motor skills

SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH

Children find and match window cards to the school bus mats. Activities include same-letter matching, uppercase and lowercase letter matching, and beginning-sound matching.

Skills: Letter recognition • Uppercase and lowercase matching • Beginning sounds • Vocabulary • Visual discrimination

PENCIL NUMBER MATCH

Children choose a number cup, then find pencil cards showing the same quantity with fingers, stars, and ten-frames.

Skills: Numerals and quantities 1–10 • Subitizing • Number representations • One-to-one correspondence • Fine motor skills

SCHOOL SORTING

Children complete four sorting activities: Crayon Color Sort, Pencil Length Sort, School Supplies & Toys Sort, and Shape Sort.

Skills: Color and shape recognition • Length comparison • Sorting • Classification • Logical thinking • Fine motor skills

BUILD MY NAME

Children use an editable name card as a model, find the uppercase or lowercase letter tiles, build their name in order, and write it on the mat.

Skills: Name recognition • Letter recognition • Letter order • Uppercase and lowercase letters • Left-to-right directionality • Name writing

ALSO INCLUDED

Teacher directions • Sensory Bin Setup & Safety guide • Illustrated How to Play cards • More Ways to Play cards • Storage labels • Editable name cards • Uppercase and lowercase letter tiles

Recommended for: Preschool • Pre-K • Transitional Kindergarten • Kindergarten • Homeschool

Sensory Bin Setup & Safety

Sensory bins provide engaging opportunities for hands-on learning, but all materials should be selected and used with the needs of your learners in mind.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Print the required pages on cardstock.
- Cut out the activity pieces and laminate them for durability, if desired.
- Choose a shallow tray or sensory bin that allows children to reach the materials comfortably.
- Add a sensory filler appropriate for your learners.
- Place the printable pieces throughout the filler. Some pieces can remain partly visible to encourage searching and discovery.
- Add child-safe tweezers, tongs or scoops when appropriate.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Adult supervision is required at all times.
- These activities include small loose parts that may present a choking hazard.
- Not intended for children under 3 years of age.
- Do not use with children who mouth classroom materials.
- Check all materials for allergies and sensory sensitivities before use.
- Choose fillers and tools that are appropriate for the age, abilities and needs of your learners.
- Inspect the materials before each use and remove any damaged pieces.
- The supervising adult is responsible for determining whether each material is suitable for the children using it.

CHOOSING A FILLER

Suggested fillers vary by activity and are shown on each Teacher Directions page. Consider the age of your learners, allergies, sensory preferences, and classroom policies when selecting a filler.

Sensory fillers, containers, tools, and loose parts are not included with this printable resource.

STORAGE AND CARE

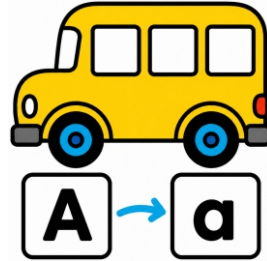
- Store each activity in a separate labeled bag or container.
- Keep all printable pieces and teacher directions together.
- Count the pieces before and after use.
- Wipe laminated pieces clean with a slightly damp cloth.
- Allow all materials to dry completely before storing them.
- Replace any pieces that become damaged, torn or difficult to clean.

Happy Teaching!

STORAGE LABELS



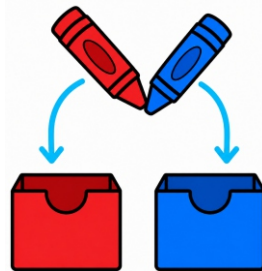
**PACK THE
BACKPACK**
SENSORY BIN



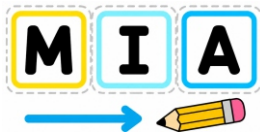
**SCHOOL BUS
ALPHABET
MATCH**
SENSORY BIN



**PENCIL
NUMBER
MATCH**
SENSORY BIN



**SCHOOL
SORTING**
SENSORY BIN



**BUILD MY
NAME**
SENSORY BIN

PACK THE BACKPACK

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Backpack mat
- School supply pieces
- Packing list cards
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the packing list cards and school supply pieces.
4. Add the pieces to the sensory bin.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a packing list card.
2. Find and count each school supply.
3. Place the supplies inside the backpack.
4. Clear the mat and choose another card.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with the first five cards, which use quantities of 1 and 2. Progress to cards with larger quantities and totals. Introduce the two cards containing 0 when children are ready to understand that 0 means none.

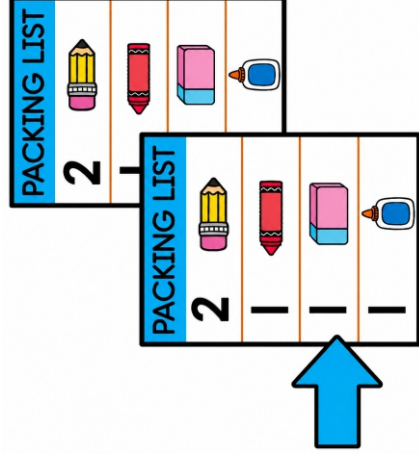
LEARNING FOCUS

Counting • One-to-one correspondence • Number recognition
• Understanding zero • Following visual directions
• Fine motor skills

PACK THE BACKPACK

How To Play

1



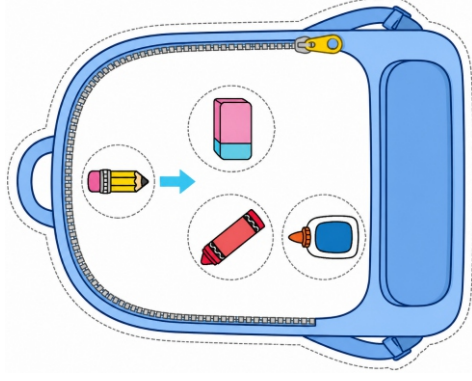
Choose a list.

2



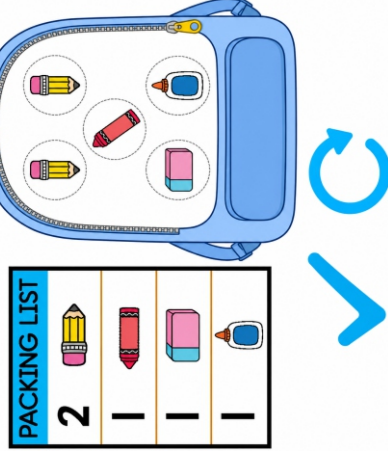
Find and count.

3



Pack the backpack.

4

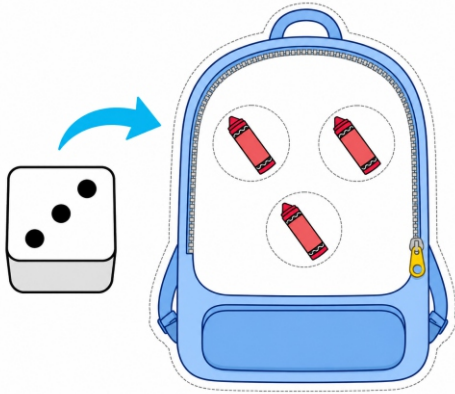


Check and play again.

PACK THE BACKPACK

More Ways to Play

1



ROLL AND PACK

1. Choose one school supply.
2. Roll a die.
3. Find and place that many matching pieces on the backpack mat.
4. Clear the mat and play again.

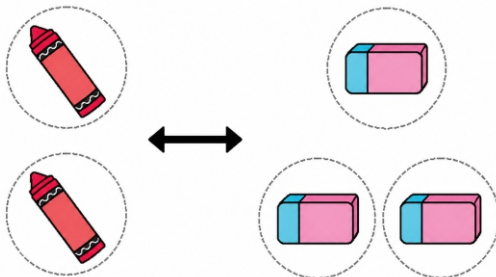
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MAKE YOUR OWN PACKING LIST

1. Write a number beside each supply on a blank packing list card.
2. Find, count and pack the correct quantity of each item.

3



COUNT AND COMPARE

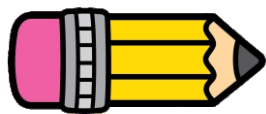
1. Choose two types of school supplies.
2. Find and count a group of each.
3. Compare the groups. Which has more? Which has fewer? Are they the same?

TEACHER TIP

Laminate the blank packing list cards for repeated use with dry-erase markers.

PACKING LIST

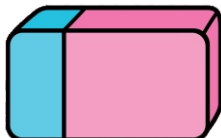
1



1



1



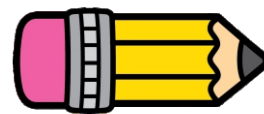
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PACKING LIST

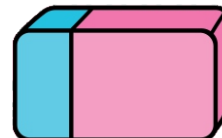
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1



1



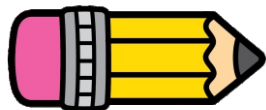
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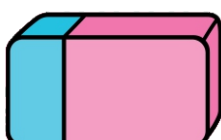
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2



1



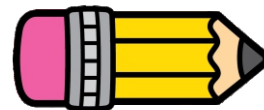
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PACKING LIST

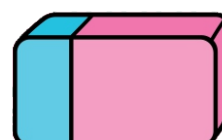
1



1



2



1



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SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- School bus mats
- Window cards
- Sensory bin
- Black beans and yellow foam rectangles
- Optional plastic tongs

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a school bus mat.
2. Find a window card.
3. Name the letter or picture.
4. Match it to the correct bus window.

PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Laminate for durability.
3. Cut apart the window cards.
4. Add the beans, foam rectangles and cards to the sensory bin.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with uppercase matching. Progress to lowercase-to-uppercase matching, then introduce the beginning-sound picture cards. Start with one bus and add more as children are ready.

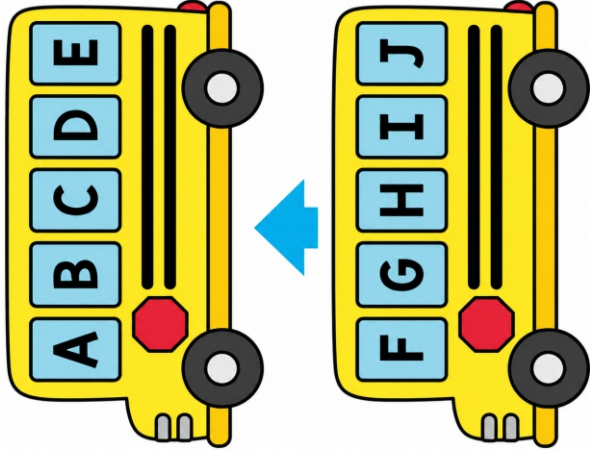
LEARNING FOCUS

Letter recognition • Letter-case matching • Beginning sounds • Visual discrimination • Fine motor skills

SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH

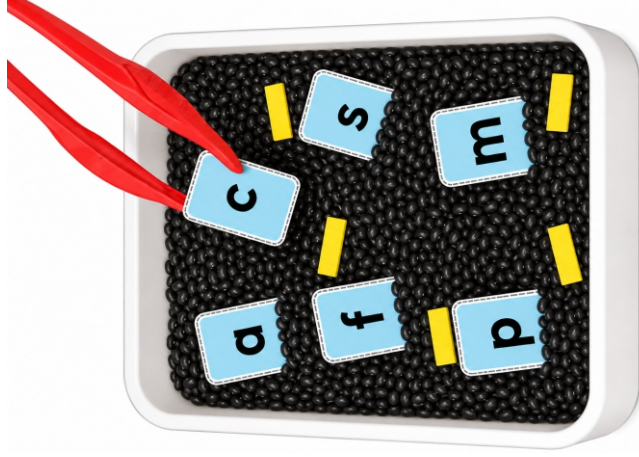
How To Play

1



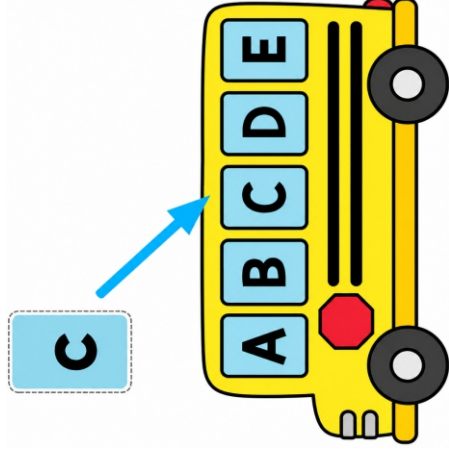
Choose a bus.

2



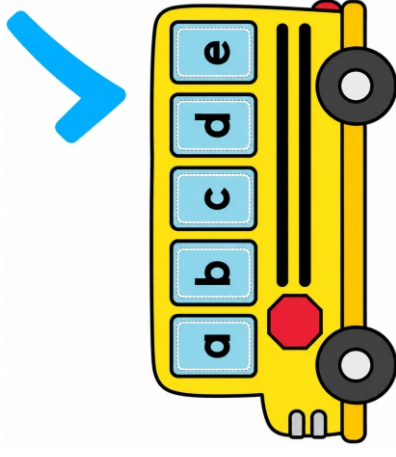
Find a window.

3



Say its name.
Match it.

4

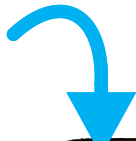


Fill the bus.
Check your
matches.

SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH

3 Levels of Play

1



SAME LETTER MATCH

Match each uppercase window to the same letter on the bus.

Builds letter recognition

2



LETTER CASE MATCH

Match each lowercase window to its uppercase letter on the bus.

Builds uppercase and lowercase letter recognition

3



BEGINNING SOUND MATCH

Name each picture and match it to its beginning letter on the bus.

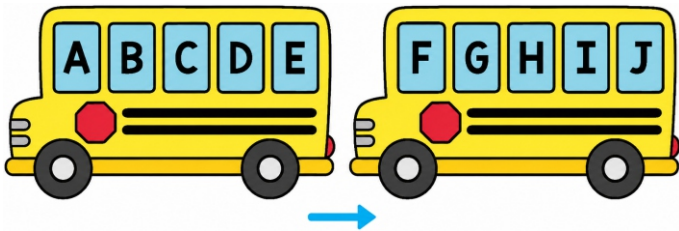
Develops beginning-sound awareness

Choose the level that best supports your learners.

SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH

More Ways to Play

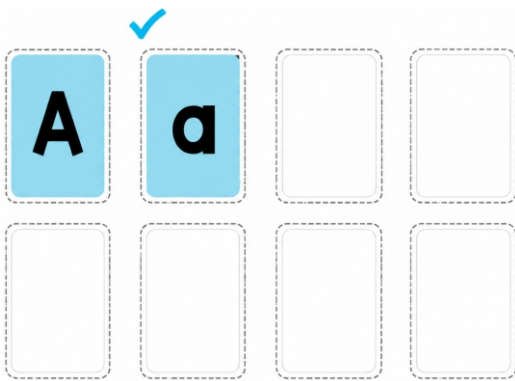
1



BUILD THE BUS LINE

1. Arrange the bus mats in alphabetical order.
2. Point to and name the letters from A to Z.
3. Add matching windows for extra practice.

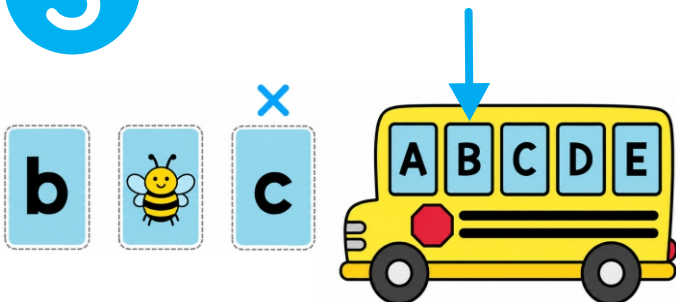
2



ALPHABET MEMORY MATCH

1. Choose two matching window sets.
2. Place the windows facedown.
3. Turn over two windows and name them.
4. Keep the pair if they match.

3



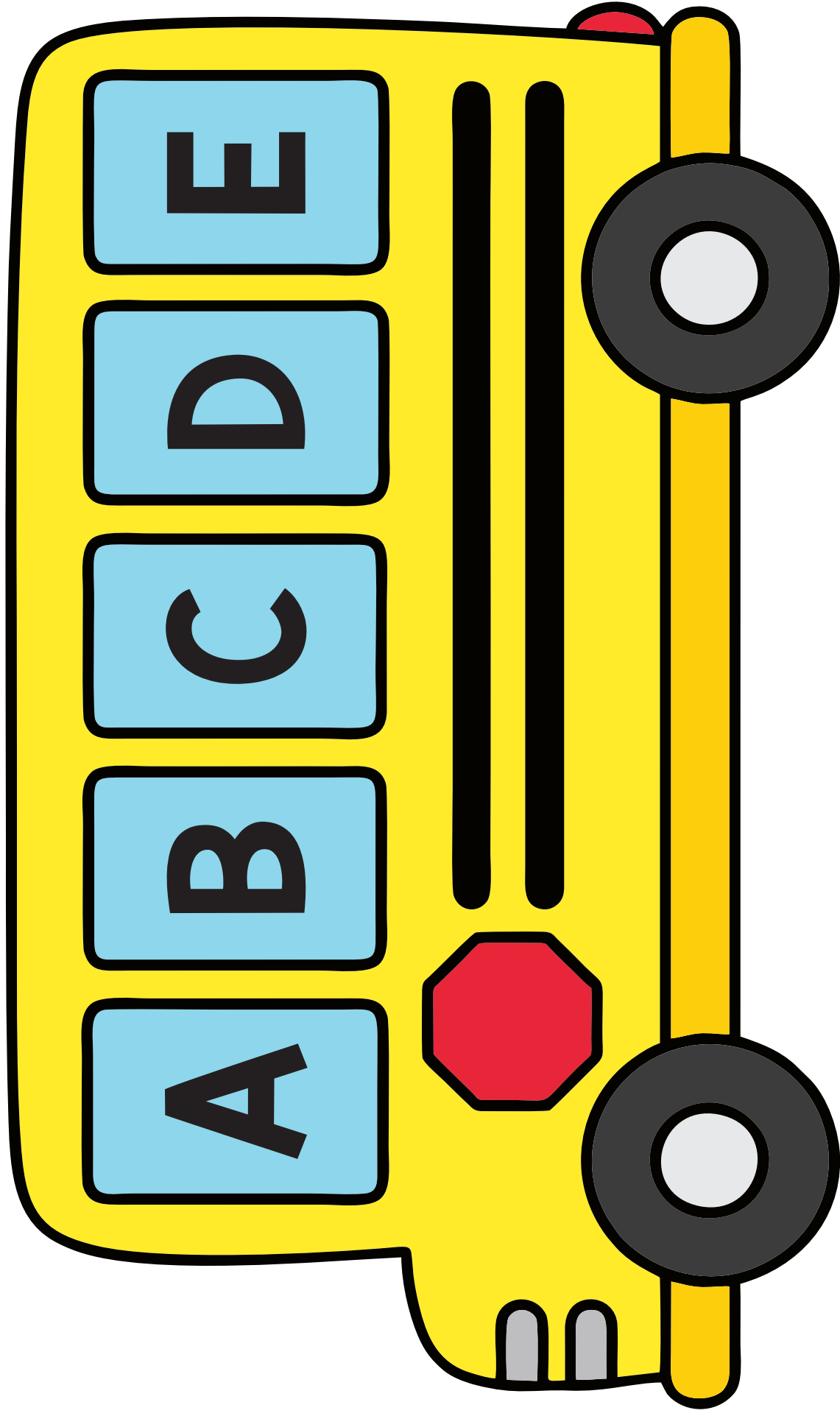
WHICH WINDOW DOESN'T BELONG?

1. Choose a target letter on a bus.
2. Place two matching windows and one that does not match beside the bus.
3. Find and remove the window that does not belong.

TEACHER TIP

Encourage children to name each letter or picture and explain why it matches, or does not match, the target letter.

SCHOOL BUS ALPHABET MATCH



a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

n

o

p

BEGINNING SOUNDS PICTURE KEY

Aa		ant	Nn		nest
Bb		bird	Oo		octopus
Cc		carrot	Pp		pig
Dd		dog	Qq		queen
Ee		elephant	Rr		rabbit
Ff		fork	Ss		sock
Gg		goat	Tt		turtle
Hh		hat	Uu		umbrella
Ii		igloo	Vv		van
Jj		jam	Ww		watermelon
Kk		kite	Xx		x-ray
Ll		leaf	Yy		yarn
Mm		monkey	Zz		zebra

PENCIL NUMBER MATCH

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Pencil cup pocket
- Number cards 1–10
- Pencil representation cards
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

PREPARATION

1. Print on cardstock and laminate.
2. Assemble the pencil cup pocket.
3. Cut apart the number and pencil cards.
4. Add the pencil cards to the sensory bin.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a number card and place it on the cup.
2. Find a pencil card in the sensory bin.
3. Count the fingers, stars, or ten-frame dots.
4. Place matching pencils in the cup.
5. Continue until all three matching pencils are found.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with numbers 1–5 and one representation set. Progress to numbers 1–10 and mix all three sets. Ask children to explain how each pencil matches the number.

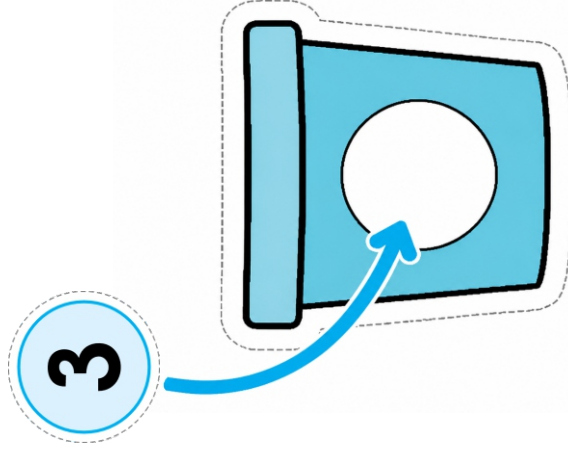
LEARNING FOCUS

Number recognition • Counting • Quantity matching • Subitizing
Understanding number representations • Fine motor skills

PENCIL NUMBER MATCH

How To Play

1



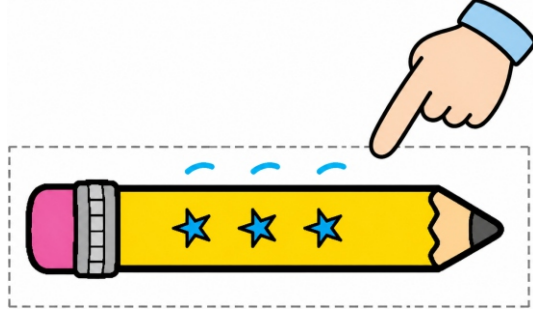
Choose
a number.

2



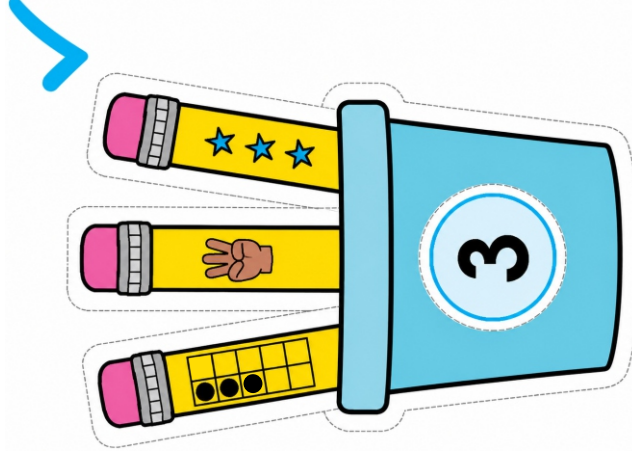
Find a pencil.

3



Count
the quantity.

4



Fill the cup.

PENCIL NUMBER MATCH

More Ways to Play

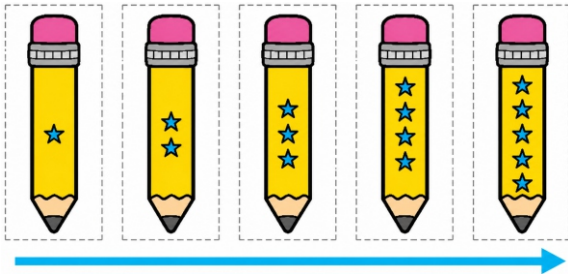
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ROLL AND FILL

1. Roll a die.
2. Choose the matching number and place it on the cup.
3. Find the three pencils showing that quantity.
4. Place the pencils in the cup.

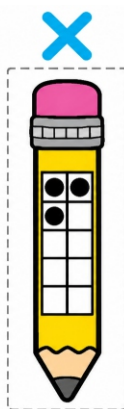
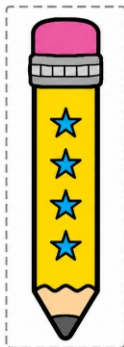
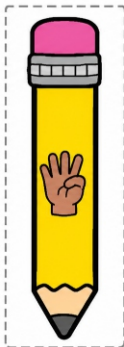
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ORDER THE PENCILS

1. Choose one representation set.
2. Arrange the pencils from 1 to 10.
3. Count each quantity to check the order.

3

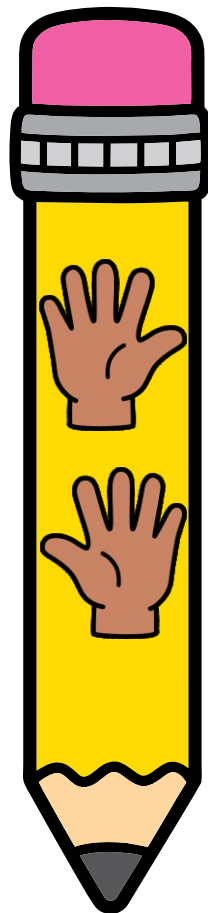
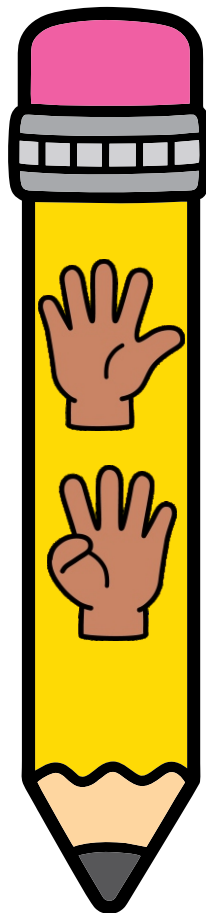
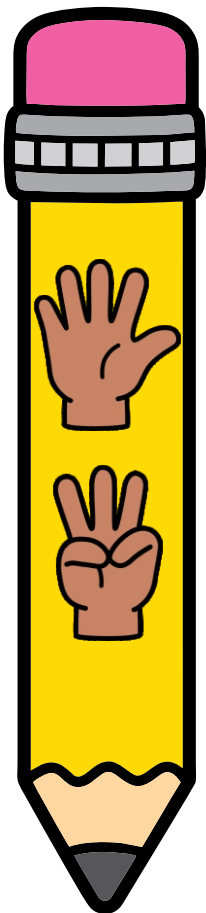
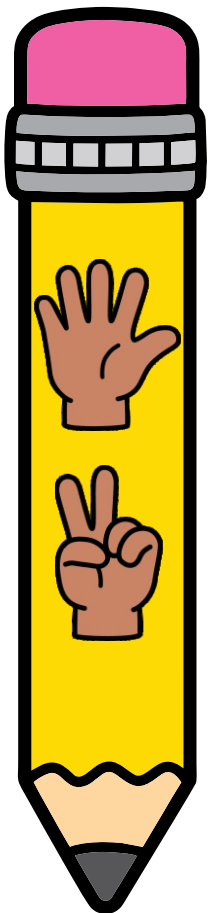
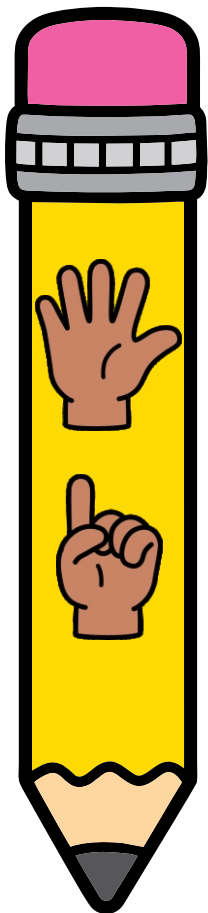
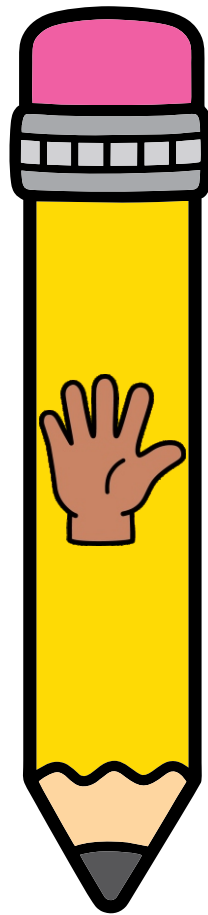
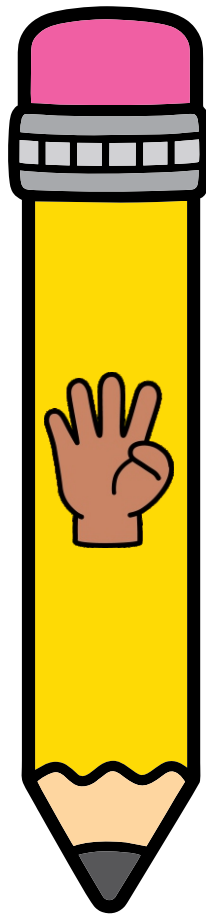
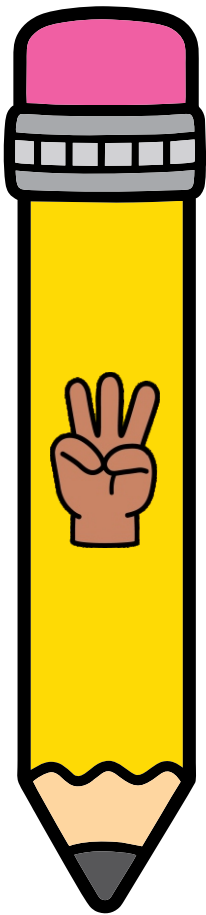
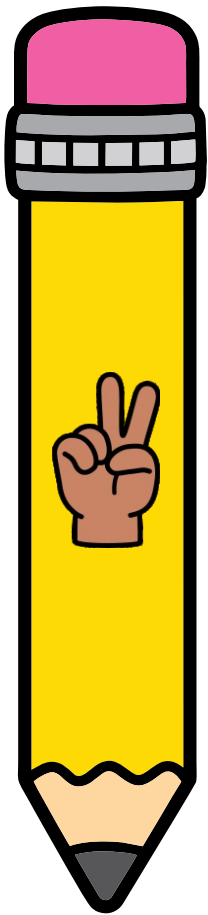
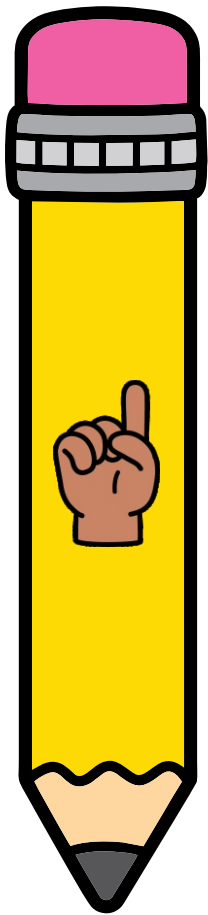


WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG?

1. Choose two pencils showing the same quantity.
2. Add one pencil showing a different quantity.
3. Find the pencil that does not belong. Explain why.

TEACHER TIP

Use a standard die for numbers 1–6 or draw a number card to practice numbers 1–10.



SCHOOL SORTING

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Mats for the chosen sorting activity
- Corresponding sorting pieces
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tweezers or tongs

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose a sorting activity.
2. Find one piece in the sensory bin.
3. Identify its color, length, category, or shape.
4. Place it on the matching mat.
5. Continue until every piece has been sorted.

PREPARATION

1. Print the mats and sorting pieces on cardstock.
2. Laminate the materials for durability and then cut apart the sorting pieces.
3. Choose one sorting activity and set out its mats.
4. Hide the corresponding pieces in the sensory-bin filler.

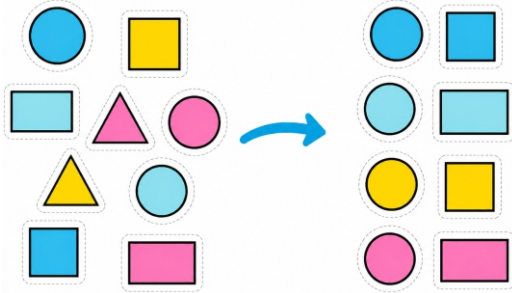
LEARNING FOCUS

Color recognition • Length comparison • Shape recognition
• Sorting and classification • Visual discrimination
• Fine motor skills

SCHOOL SORTING

More Ways to Play

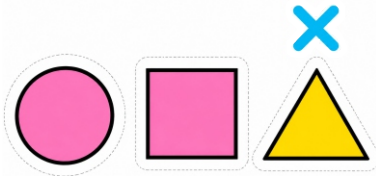
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SORT IT ANOTHER WAY

1. Choose a set of pieces.
2. Sort the pieces in one way.
3. Mix them up and sort them using a different rule.
4. Explain how the pieces in each group belong together.

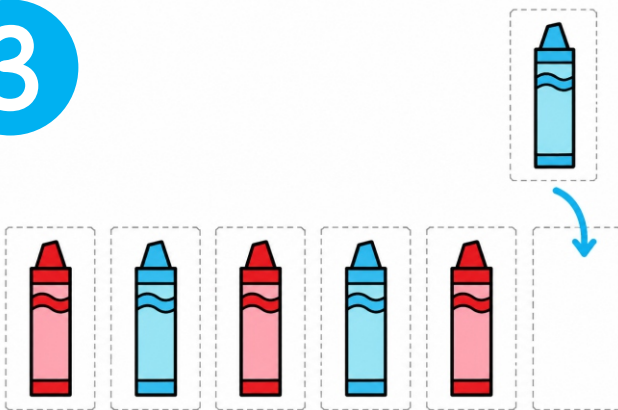
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WHICH ONE DOESN'T BELONG?

1. Choose three pieces.
2. Place two that match and one that is different.
3. Find the piece that does not belong. Explain why.

3



MAKE AND CONTINUE A PATTERN

1. Choose two or three types of pieces.
2. Arrange them to begin a pattern.
3. Continue the pattern.
4. Say the pattern aloud to check it.

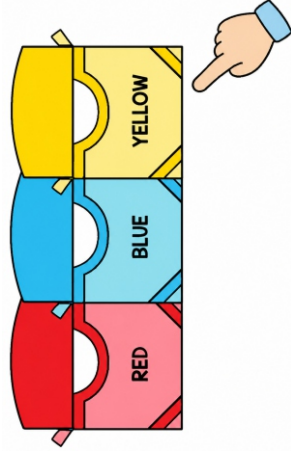
TEACHER TIP

Encourage children to explain their choices and describe the rule they used to sort, compare, or make a pattern.

CRAYON COLOR SORT

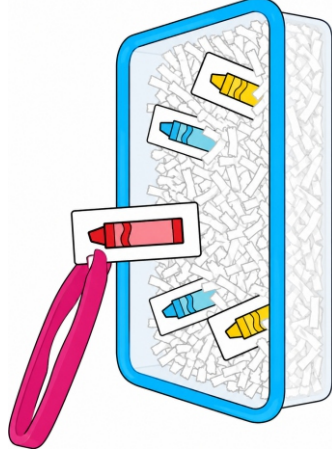
How To Play

1



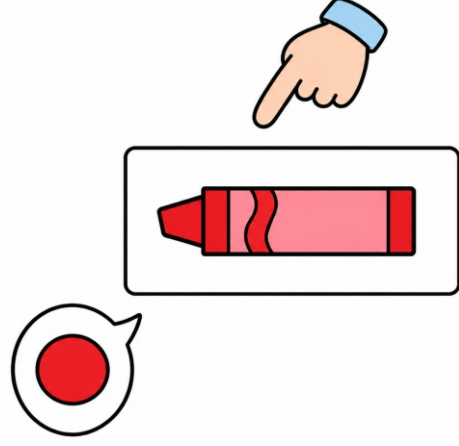
Set out the
crayon boxes.

2



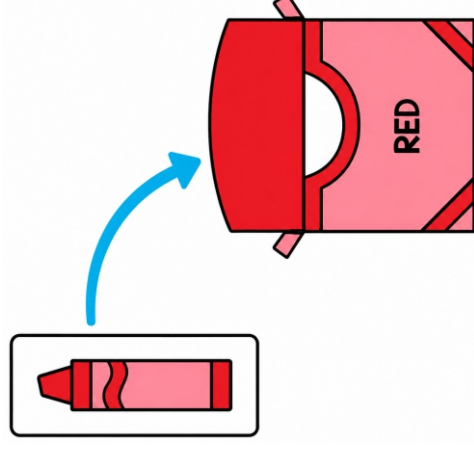
Find a crayon.

3



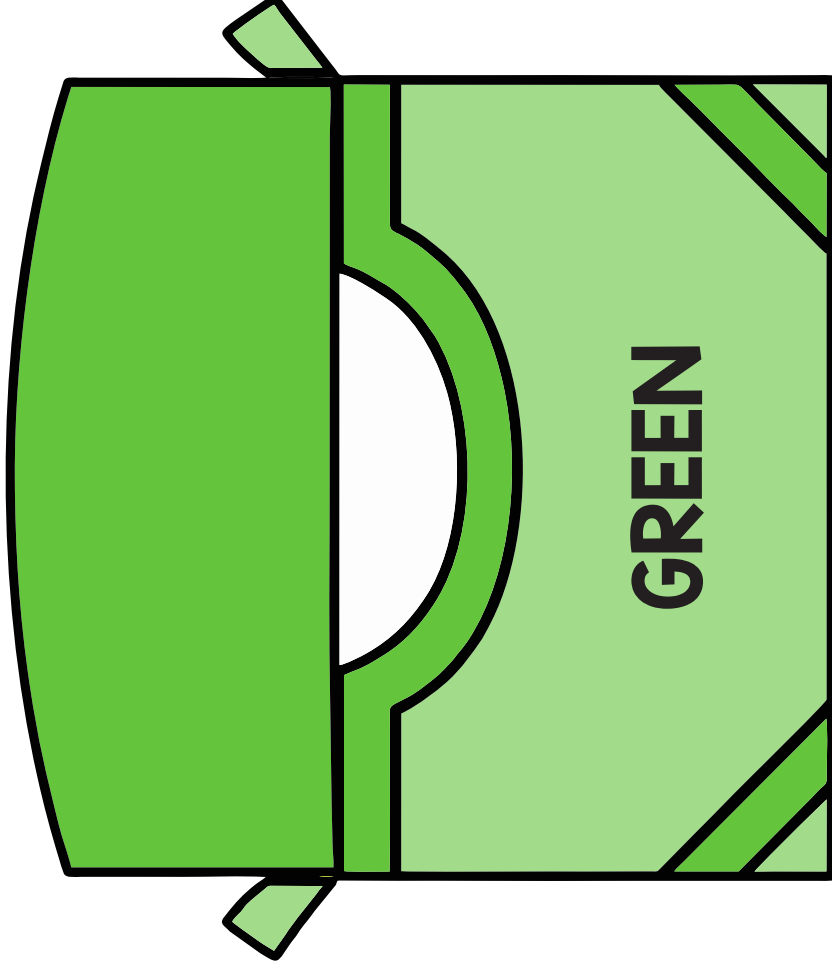
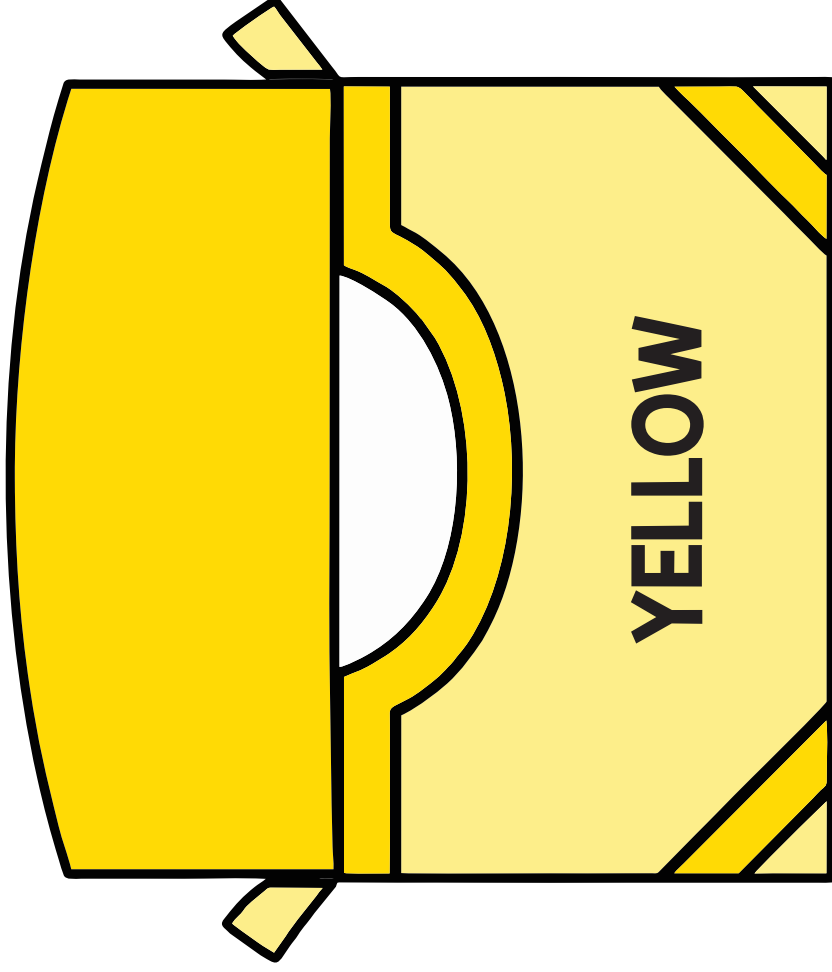
Name the color.

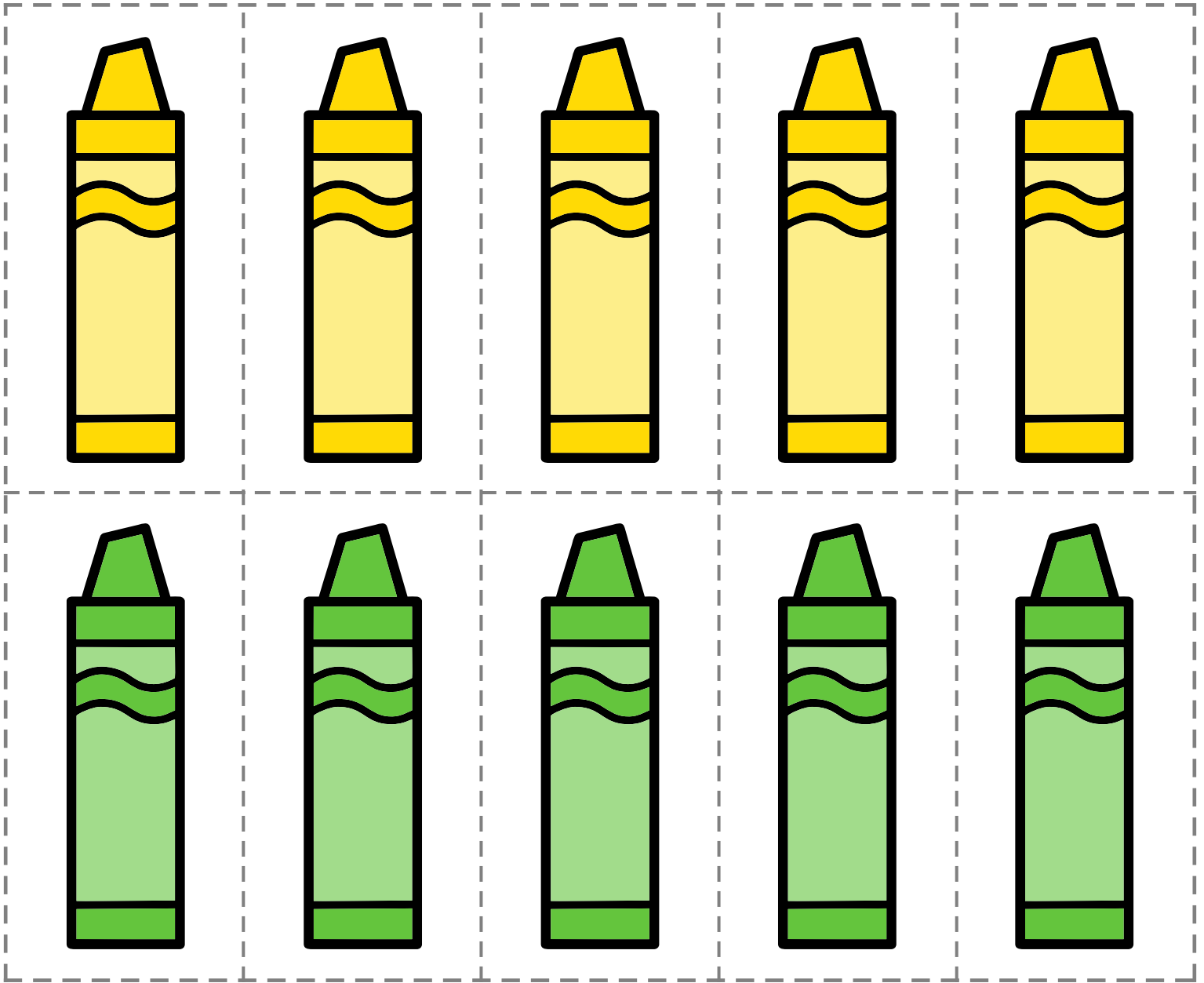
4



Place it on the
matching box.

CRAYON COLOR SORT

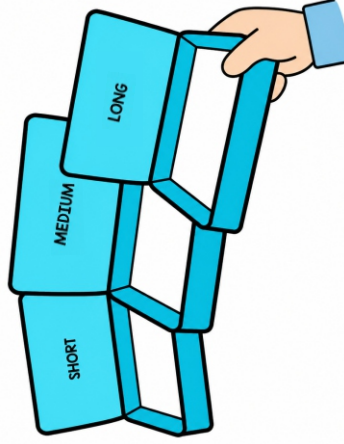




PENCIL LENGTH SORT

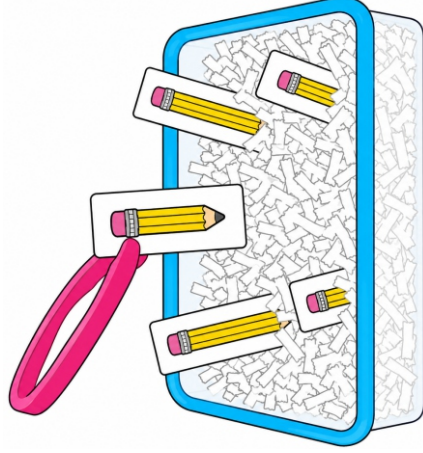
How To Play

1



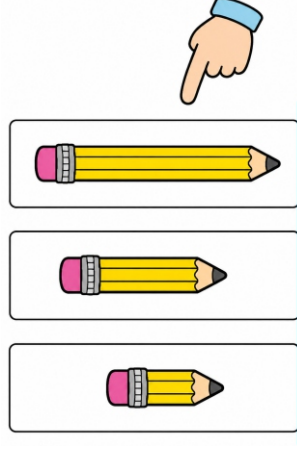
Set out the pencil cases.

2



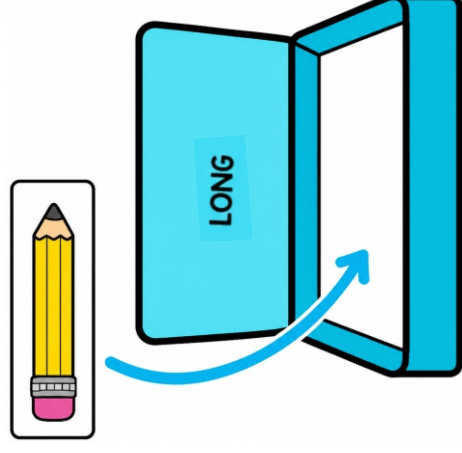
Find a pencil.

3



Compare the pencil lengths.

4

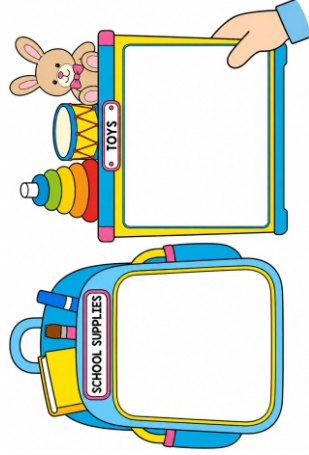


Place it on the matching case.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES & TOYS SORT

How To Play

1



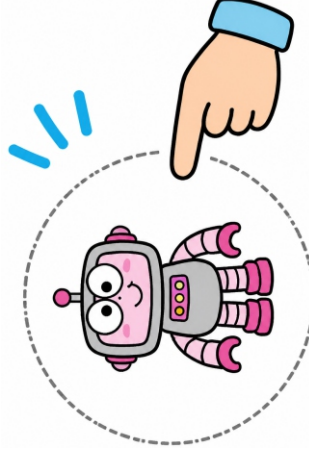
Set out both mats.

2



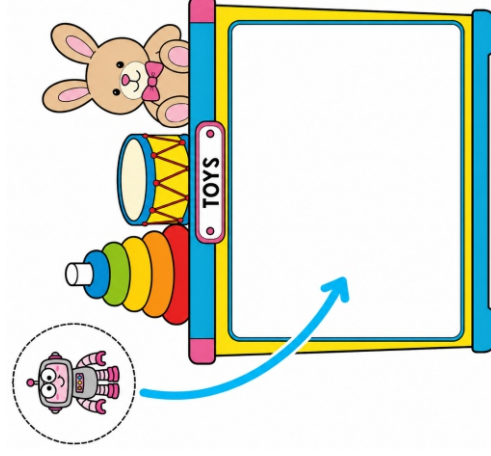
Find a picture.

3



Name the picture.

4

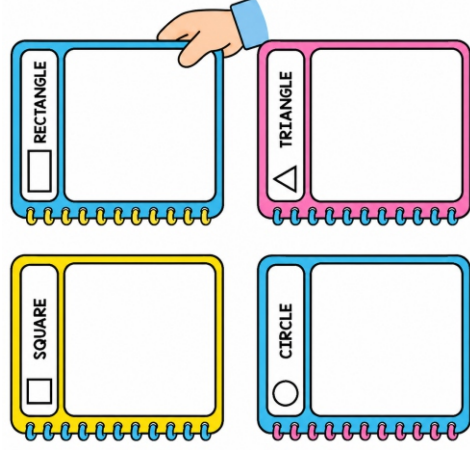


Place it on the matching mat.

SHAPE SORT

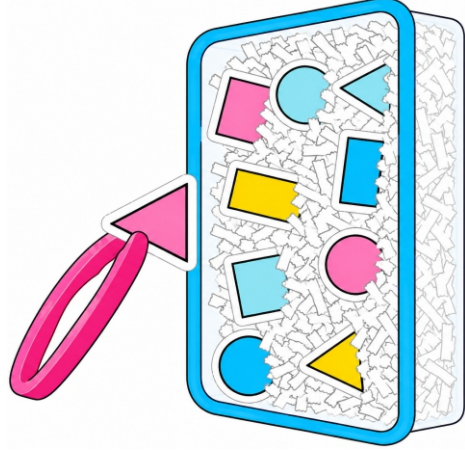
How To Play

1



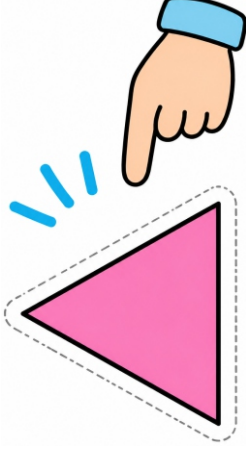
Set out the notebooks.

2



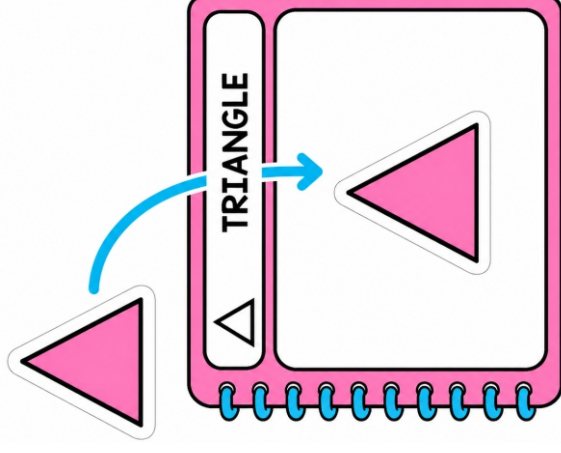
Find a shape.

3



Name the shape.

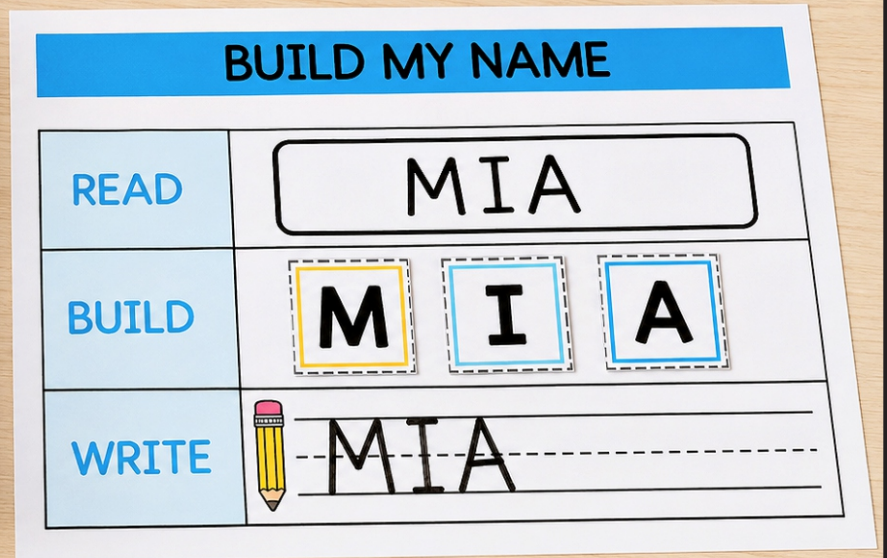
4



Place it on the correct notebook.

BUILD MY NAME

Teacher Directions



YOU WILL NEED

- Build My Name mat and name cards
- Uppercase and/or lowercase letter tiles
- Sensory bin and filler
- Optional tongs
- Dry-erase marker

PREPARATION

1. Print the mat, name cards, and letter tiles on cardstock.
2. Laminate and cut apart the name cards and tiles.
3. Hide the required letters and a few distractors in the sensory-bin filler.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Place a name card in the READ space.
2. Find the letters in the sensory bin.
3. Arrange the letters in order in the BUILD space.
4. Read the completed name and write it in the WRITE space.

DIFFERENTIATION

Begin with uppercase letters and only the letters needed for the child's name. Progress by adding distractors, using lowercase letters, matching lowercase letters to an uppercase name, or removing the name card before the child writes it.

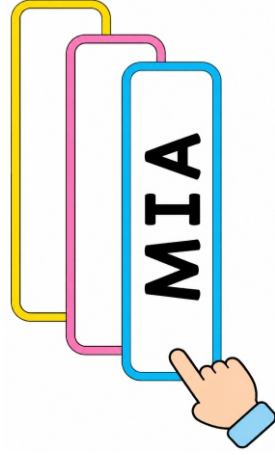
LEARNING FOCUS

Name recognition • Letter recognition • Letter order
• Left-to-right directionality • Name writing • Fine motor skills

BUILD MY NAME

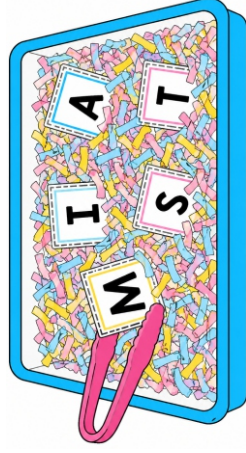
How To Play

1



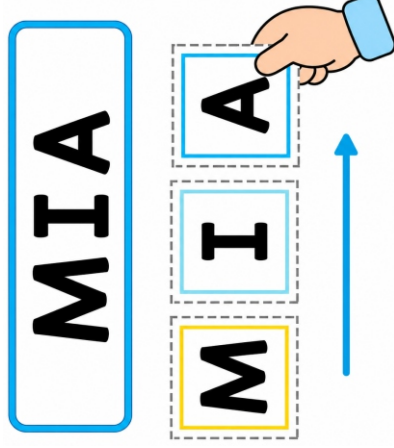
Choose my name card.

2



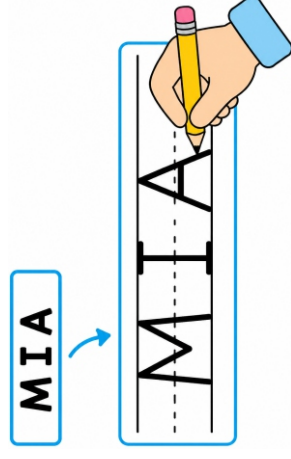
Find the letters in the sensory bin.

3



Build my name in order.

4

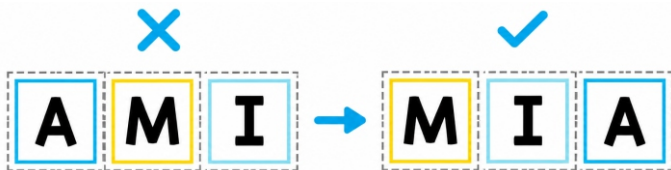


Write my name.

BUILD MY NAME

More Ways to Play

1



FIX MY NAME

1. Choose a name card.
2. Mix up the matching letter tiles.
3. Rearrange the letters to build the name correctly.
4. Read the name to check the order.

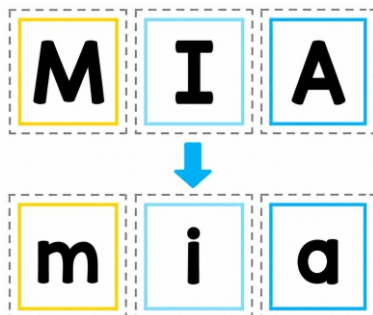
2



WHICH LETTER IS MISSING?

1. Build the name with the letter tiles.
2. Ask the child to close their eyes.
3. Remove one letter.
4. Identify and replace the missing letter.

3



UPPERCASE AND LOWERCASE MATCH

1. Choose an uppercase or lowercase name card.
2. Build the name using tiles in the other case.
3. Point to and name each matching letter.

TEACHER TIP

Encourage children to point to and name each letter from left to right. Begin with uppercase letters, then introduce lowercase matching when they are ready.