

Montessori Inspired Sandpaper Letter Games

<https://mamameganallysa.com/>

Flip Book - showing one picture at a time either individually or in a flip book. Name the picture, Trace the sandpaper letter saying /m/. Point to the picture and say the name, Emphasizing the beginning sound /m/

Loose Parts Letters - placing gesm/erasers/looseparts along the sand paper until the letter is covered

Crayon Rubbings - place a piece of paper over the sandpaper letter and using a crayon rub to create the letter - great name activity can be followed up by finding the matching moveable letters to write their name

Sound sorting(letters object matching)- starting with 3 (then 4, then 5 and so on) provide 2-3 objects for each sandpaper letter, control of error every letter should have the same number of items, Have the child select an item and ask what do you have in your hand? "A duck!" does duck start with a /d/, /w/, or /h/ make sure to really ennouceiate the beginning sounds, go slow and repeat your question if they seem stuck.

- **Level1** provide 3 letters and 3 objects for each letter
- **Level2** let this work be far more independent, still set up the same way but you don't ask unless they need your assistance to isolate the sound as confidence grows add letters
- **Level3** can be played with ending sounds
- **Level4** can be played with middle sounds

Simon Says - a selection of 3-5 sandpaper letters. get silly - 'Simon says place the /b/ under your toe

Can also be played with toys.Simon says place the elephant on the /t/ Simon says plays Barbie under the /b/

One and Done - similar to sound sorting. Provide a group of letters and one object for each. Make a big deal about how each letter can only have one object. "/f/ can only have one object today, let's find the object that starts with /f/" The child selects the feather and places it on the correct sandpaper letter proceed with the remaining letters

- **Level1** provide a selection of 5-6 letters
- **Level2** let this work be far more independent, still set up the same way but you don't ask unless they need your assistance to isolate the sound as confidence grows add letters
- **Level3** can be played with ending sounds
- **Level4** can be played with middle sounds

Mystery Match - selection of sandpaper letters and a bag/basket/box with matching moveable alphabet letters. Have the child choose one small letter from the basket at a time and place them on the matching big letter

- Level 1 - limited number of sandpaper letters 4-5 is a good start
- Level 2 - increase the number of letters - can go all the way up to all the sandpaper letters
- Level 3 - using 4- sandpaper letters have the child work directly from the moveable letters box instead of a curated selection in a bag

Palm reading - have the Child trace 3 sandpaper letters, note the shapes used to form the letter. Then you trace a letter in the child's palm to have them select that specific letter.

Back Rub- have the Child trace 3 sandpaper letters, then you trace a letter on the child's back and have them say its sound.

Alternatively, you could have your child write the letter on your back for you to guess, this will give them a chance to really pay attention to the shapes of the letters

Knock knock - Review a set of 3 sandpaper letters. flip over the letters and then knock on the back "whos there?" Flip it over and announce who has come to play!

- Level 1 - 3 letters at a time and announce the letter sound after flipping
- Level 2 - 4 or more letters and ask "Who came to play today?" allowing the child a chance to answer

Who's Missing?- place a group of letters out and review the sounds. Have the child close their eyes remove a letter and cover with a cloth. Have Child open their eyes and dramatically wisk the cloth away and ask the child which sound is missing

Letter Relay - 6 sandpaper letters and all the matching moveable alphabet letters - placed on opposite sides of the room from each other. Review the sandpaper letters and one at a time have them retrieve the matchin moveable letter.

- **Level1** only present the matching letters to the sandpaper letters
- **Level2** increase the number of letters used
- **Level3** reduce the number of sandpaper letters but instead of a curated selection of moveable alphabet letters present the whole box - this is big work for some kids who can get overwhelmed by all the letters. - if a child is struggling with the entire box it may help to still present the entire box, but only have one letter in each compartment. It will look less busy and be easier for them to scan

Hidden Letters - go around a room with a 5-10 letters and place them on items that begin with that sound and have the child hunt for the sounds you can give hints based on the sound the letter makes and the objects that you selected

- **Level1** - they have a free for all finding the letters in any order but have to trace and announce the letter sound after they found it
- **Level2** - you give a sound and they have to retrieve the correct letter

Sound Circle - layout a large circle of sandpaper letters, ABC order is not necessary and a basket of sound objects for all the letters. Have the child sit in the middle of the circle and place each sound object with its sandpaper letter. You could limit the number of letters to make the work easier, but as confidence and fluency grows add in more letters.

-if you have a sit and spin or a bilibo this would be a really fun addition to this sandpaper letter game!

ABC Train - This is big work and should only be attempted if the child has been working with their sounds for a while and is quite confident in them - Lay out all the sandpaper letters in a long line - ABC order is not necessary, could also be thematic to the season or unit study. Provide a sound object for all letters. Have the child select an object and state the name of it and isolate the starting sound. They then place each object on its letter symbol

This can be made more interesting/have variety if you set up along a train track or play road and have a car/train deliver the object to the letter.

