

# Initial Sounds Sandpaper Letters

## Materials:

An open box containing:

- (1) set of Sandpaper Letters (your choice of a primary print)

## Preparation:

Cut (26) rectangles out of wood/matt board/cardboard/etc. measuring 6" x 10" (or size you prefer)

- Use red/pink boards for vowels
- Use blue boards for consonants
- If you desire, this would be the time to laminate before you add the lettering.
- Use fine grade of sandpaper or boat tread for the lettering. If using sandpaper, trace the reverse of the lettering on the paper back of sheet of sandpaper and then cut them out. Use glue to paste the lettering on the boards. If using boat tread, trace the reverse of the lettering on the paper back and then cut them out. Peel away the paper and there will be a layer of glue so you can just press them into place on the boards.

## Set-Up of Sound Table:

- Place a one person table in a quieter part of the room.
- Put a placemat on the table and line it up with the front edge.
- Put the Sandpaper Letter Box above the placemat, top left hand corner of the table.
- Place the Sandpaper Numeral Box to the right of the Sandpaper Letter Box.
- Place a small mirror to the right of the Sandpaper Numerals (right top corner of the table).
- Child's chair
- Teacher's chair on the seated child's left side (facing the child).

## Presentation:

1. Invite the child (no group lessons) to come to the Sound Table.
2. Choose a letter and place it in front of the child on the placemat.
3. Using your index and middle fingers, trace the letter in the appropriate direction and say the sound out loud.

4. Place the letter face down to the child's right; introduce 2 or 3 letters at one time if the child is ready (if not return the letter to the box after Step #3). This is the **first** lesson of a 3-Period Lesson.
5. Return the letters to the box.

On Another Day:

Follow the first presentation through Step #2. Have the child using their index and middle fingers trace the letter in the appropriate direction. Next you will turn each of the 2 or 3 Sandpaper Letters face up (left to right). Ask the child if they can give you one of the sounds. Repeat until all sounds have been pointed out. This is the **second** lesson of a 3-Period Lesson.

On Another Day:

Follow the first presentation through Step #2. Have the child using their index and middle fingers trace the letter in the appropriate direction. Next you will turn each of the 2 or 3 Sandpaper Letters face up (left to right). Pick-up one of the Sandpaper Letters and ask the child to tell you what sound it makes. Repeat until all sounds have been identified by the child in the same way as the first one. This the third lesson of a 3-Period Lesson.

Notes:

1. I prefer to introduce the first letter in a child's first name.
2. Next introduce "a"
3. "c"
4. "m"
5. "r"
6. "t"
7. Be careful not to introduce letters that are similar in shape at the same time.
8. Don't introduce "c" and "k" at the same time.
9. Introduce "y" and "q" last. "y" can be a vowel and a consonant and "q" needs a "u".

Variations and Extensions:

1. Trace letters in colored sand or cornmeal
2. Have child look in the small mirror when they say the sound

Points of Interest:

1. How the letters feel when tracing them
2. Holding the boards with the sub-dominant hand and tracing with the dominant hand

Control of Error:

1. Child doesn't remember how to trace the Sandpaper Letters that they have been introduced to.

Aims:

Articulation, preparation for writing and reading, etc.

Age:

3 ½ and up (May start earlier if child is ready)

Language:

Sandpaper, letters, tracing, alphabet, vowels, consonants, etc.