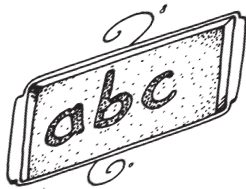


Handwriting Ideas

Learning to print is an exciting experience for a young child. It is important that children learn how to print correctly. Here are some helpful hints that will assist children in learning how to print letters using the correct handwriting strokes.



SAND TRAYS

Take a cookie sheet and cover the bottom with either sand or salt. Have the children practice printing letters in the sand with their fingers. They will be able to feel how each letter is formed.

MOSAIC LETTERS

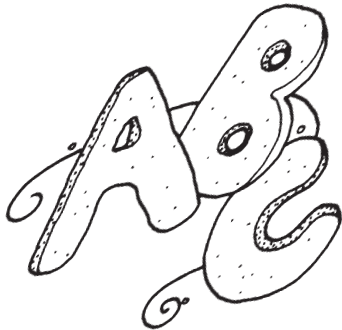
Gather fifty-two 4" x 6" index cards, glue, uncooked beans, macaroni, or seeds. Make 26 uppercase letters and 26 lowercase letters by drawing one letter on each card. Trace over the letters with glue and then lay the beans, pasta, or seeds on top of the glue. Let dry. When you have finished making the alphabet letters, they can be used for a variety of activities:

- Use as flash cards for letter identification.
- Place the cards in alphabetical order.
- Use the cards to match uppercase letters to lowercase letters.

CLAY OR PLAY DOUGH LETTERS

Prepare a set of alphabet cards ahead of time. Give the children play-dough or clay and teach them how to roll the clay so that it looks like a long worm. Have the children use the clay to form letters that correspond to the alphabet card.

When you first begin this activity, choose some of the easier alphabet letters such as O, C, V, X, L, and T. As the children become more skilled in shaping the letters, try introducing some of the more difficult letters.



GLUE LETTERS

Give each child a set of cards with one alphabet letter printed on each card. Let the children trace over the letters with white glue. Let the glue dry. Have the children use their index fingers to trace over the dried glue letters. This will allow them to feel how each letter is formed and to practice tracing the correct direction of each letter.