

Alphabet Arch

Congratulations on your purchase of **Really Good Literacy Center-in-a-Bag™ Alphabet Arch**, a fun, hands-on game that sharpens your students' letter-recognition skills.

Objective

Students identify the letters of the alphabet.

Meeting State Standards

This type of practice in matching upper- and lowercase letters helps students meet grade-level expectations and prepare for standardized testing. **Alphabet Arch** can help improve letter recognition and letter-naming skills.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- 2 Double-sided Alphabet Arch Mats
- 52 Foam Letters (upper- and lowercase)
- Center Task Card
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Letter recognition and letter naming are essential in developing phonics and phonological-awareness skills. With **Alphabet Arch**, early readers enjoy identifying colorful *Foam Letters*, saying their names, and matching them to corresponding letters on the large *Alphabet Arch Mat*. Through repeated play, students build essential alphabet-fluency skills.

H N Q W Y S L M P V
B K T R G Z D E I O U



Managing the Center-in-a-Bag

- Display the *Center Task Card*.
- Copy and file this *Activity Guide* for future use.
- You may want to separate lower- and uppercase *Letters* into two plastic zippered bags.
- Demonstrate how to tidy the center when the activity is complete.
- Store the center materials in the bag and hang it alongside other *Centers-in-a-Bag*.

Introducing Alphabet Arch

The early study of letter recognition should be interesting, active learning. **Alphabet Arch** provides a fun setting for students to engage with and manipulate *Foam Letters*,

recognizing distinctive letter features as they name and match those *Letters* to the corresponding *Alphabet Arch Mat*. Two double-sided *Alphabet Arch Mats* allow for individual play or partnership practice for four students. Two types of letter identification allow for skill-level differentiation for emergent readers. One side of the *Alphabet Arch Mat* involves basic matching of upper- and lowercase *Letters*, while the back of the *Mat* has letters missing and offers an exciting challenge in alphabetic sequencing.

Model the Activity

Begin by modeling the activity, discussing every step with students. Start with one *Alphabet Arch Mat* for practice. Begin modeling with either the complete upper- or lowercase alphabet side of the *Mat*. Show students how to select the corresponding set of upper- or lowercase *Letters* (this is more efficient if they have been separated into plastic zippered bags). Spread out the *Letters* to the side of the *Alphabet Arch Mat*. Demonstrate picking up a *Letter*, correctly saying its name, and then matching it to the corresponding letter on the *Alphabet Arch Mat*.

Continue until all of the *Letters* are placed on the *Mat*.

Center Task Card

Post this at the literacy center in a visible position. The student or helper can refer to the *Center Task Card* for instructions. Refer to the shaded section at the top of the *Card* for center preparation, including needed materials.

Alphabet Arch Game

One to two students, or can be played in partnerships
Object: Identify letters of the alphabet

Materials: *Alphabet Arch Mats*, *Foam Letters*

1. Choose uppercase or lowercase *Mat* and *Letters* for play.
2. Place one set of *Letters* next to the *Mat*.
3. Student picks a *Letter*, says its name, finds its match on the *Arch*, and places the *Letter* on the *Arch*.
4. Continue until all the *Letters* are placed on the *Mat*.

Extensions:

Flip over the *Alphabet Arch Mat* and have students complete the partial arch.

With eyes closed, student picks up a *Letter* and identifies it. Open eyes to check and then place it on the *Arch Mat*.

Use the uppercase *Letters* for the lowercase *Mat* and vice versa to match uppercase to lowercase *Letters*, developing flexibility in recognizing *Letters*.