

Airplanes to Zebras

Discover the Alphabet

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For 1-4 Players, Ages: 4-6

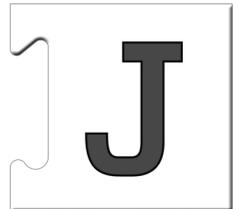
Contents: 26 pairs of cards

Before Playing:

Review all the cards with your child by talking about the objects and asking various questions:

- What is this?
- Have you seen one of these?
- What do you think this is for?
- Who would use that?
- Where would you find that?

Depending on the child's age, some of the games can be played with only a few cards at a time. Cards which may be too difficult should be left out.



At first the letters should be pronounced phonetically (how they sound). The names of the letters should only be introduced once all letters are known and their phonetic pronunciation has been mastered.

It's a good idea to just start by using the front of the cards, showing the letter and the picture. The back of the cards showing upper and lower cases of each letter can be used later.

Rules for 4 Different Games:

1) Sorting Pictures and Letters

Separate out and mix up the cards to be used with the picture side up. Players try to match up correct pairs. This can be done by one child at a time or simultaneously. The puzzle cut allows only the correct picture to fit with its matching letter so a child can see if they've made a correct pair. Once a pair has been matched, the child should say the word out loud and clearly.

2) Card Swapping

The cards are dealt out equally. It doesn't matter whether a player has more letters than objects or vice-versa. Any player who already has a correct pair may lay it down in front of them.

The youngest starts by asking any other player for a card which they need to make a pair. They offer another card in exchange. If the swap is successful, the completed pairs are laid out in front of the players. If not, the next player takes their turn. Players decide if they will allow a second question, should the first prove to be unsuccessful.

This game is more about communicating with questions and answers than about collecting the most pairs.

3) Question Game

The cards are dealt out equally and each player tries to keep their cards hidden from the others.

One child starts by asking any other player "Do you have the 'C' for Cow?" or "Please give me the picture which goes with the 'J' card?". If the answer is positive, the card is handed over.

A player can continue asking as long as they are successful. As soon as someone says "no", the next child takes their turn. A player can choose any other player to ask for whichever card they need to make a pair.

Complete pairs are laid out on the table. The game ends either when one child runs out of cards or when all pairs have been matched up. In both cases the winner is the player with the most completed pairs.

4) Partners

This game is for larger groups of an even number and is played with half as many pairs of cards as there are players. Each child is given a card. Those with letters sit opposite those with objects. A child from one group asks the other group who has the matching card.

For example “I have the letter ‘F’. Who has the matching picture?”

The child with the fish card goes over to the child with the letter ‘F’. The questions continue until everyone has found a partner. This game can also be played in a large room. The children walk around and look at each others’ cards until all partners have been discovered.

With a little imagination, you can create your own game variations.

These Games Promote the Following Skills:

- Recognition and naming of objects.
- Recognizing that names of things can be written down as words.
- Listening to, differentiating between and pronouncing the various sounds.
- Recognizing the first letters of words.
- Learning that sounds are represented by letters.
- Sorting out letters and sounds.
- Getting to know and differentiating between upper and lower case letters.



The words used in this game are:

A Airplane

B Bicycle

C Cow

D Dinosaur

E Elephant

F Fish

G Giraffe

H Horse

I Ice cream

J Jeans

K Kangaroo

L Lion

M Monkey

N Nest

O Owl

P Penguin

Q Queen

R Rhino

S Sun

T Tiger

U Umbrella

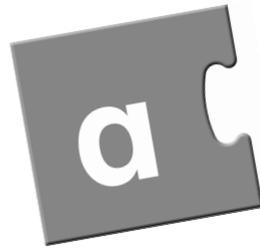
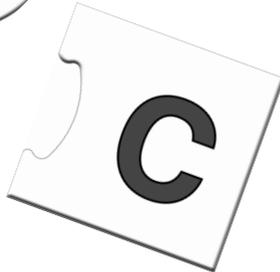
V Volcano

W Whale

X Xylophone

Y Yo-Yo

Z Zebra



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