

## Phonics Activity: Alphabet Hunt

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Phonics is the awareness that each letter has a corresponding sound with it. The instruction of Phonics helps students learn the relationship between the letters of written language and the sounds of spoken language (Reading Rockets, 2017). The student is introduced to a letter, its sound, and then introduced to the words that have the sound in the first letter. For example, 'A' is a letter that represents the sound /a/, this is the first sound you hear in apple or airplane. Below is an activity to help your student develop phonics skills.

In preparation for the activity, you will need a large sketch pad or mat, you will then write out the alphabet and put each letter into a box. I would suggest drawing your boxes big enough for the student to put an object in your drawn box and still be able to see your written letter. You will then need a basket or toy box. Fill your basket/box up with child friendly objects, each that start with a different letter. If this is an activity you will have multiple students doing, try to have a larger number of objects that start with the same letter, so that they can differ from each other. Once preparation is done, you can introduce the activity to your students.

Give an introduction to the activity and explain how it is completed. Present your drawn-out alphabet and have the students say aloud each letter. Then pick out an item from your basket/box and ask the what the item is called. Once they answer, ask them what is the first sounds they hear in the name of the object. When it is agreed upon by the class, ask them what box on your chart it fits in to. After this, have them work on it individually or in a group.

**Here is a full dialogue example:** Look what I have here—a 'duck'. What sound do you hear at the beginning of 'duck'? D-uck? Right—/d/. What letter makes that sound? You got it!

'D'! So I'm going to put this duck under 'D'. Do you think we can find something in our basket for every letter?

This activity is important because it gives the student a visual of words that have an initial sound of the various letters in the alphabet. It will help them better connect letters to sound to objects.

Through this activity, students will be able to have fun while learning. This can also bring play into comprehending letters-to-sounds. After the introduction and fulfillment of the activity, you can do this orally as you walk your students down the hallway and ask them, *"What items in this hallway start with the /s/ sound?"* This is a fun way to get students to do this on their own, outside of school too.

The sum of this paper is to help students match letters-to-sound through a fun learning activity. Learning disguised in a fun way!





References:

Mascott, A. K. (2013). Backyard alphabet hunt. Retrieved from:  
<https://teachmama.com/backyard-alphabet-hunt/>

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