

Lots of Dots: Learning My ABC's

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Lots of Dots: Learning My ABC's
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Welcome to

Lots of Dots

Learning My ABC's

Lots of Dots: Learning My ABC's is an exciting raised-line coloring book designed for future large print and braille readers. It facilitates braille character recognition through repetitive activities designed for young children with visual impairments and multiple disabilities.

These activities can help children develop:

- pre-literacy skills, such as letter and word identification, and tracking
- language development skills, such as conceptualization and classification/generalization
- fine-motor pre-academic skills, such as coloring, tracing, and tactual shape identification

Lots of Dots is motivational, providing ready reinforcement and tangible end products. It helps children with visual impairments gain skills similar to those of their sighted peers, facilitating peer interaction. Most important of all, coloring is fun!

Suggested order of activities:

- For each lesson, encourage the child to tactually explore the large print letter. If needed, explain capital and lower case letters.
- Introduce the child to the standard braille character provided with the letter.
- On each letter page, use the braille key in the upper right corner to show the child how to color the oversized braille cell.
- Color the braille character using the oversized braille cell.

T: Tape

Show the child a variety of tapes, such as transparent tape, duct tape and masking tape. Let her explore the different textures. Make a collage using various tapes.

U: Umbrella

Teach the child to open and close an umbrella. With a misting bottle, spray water so the child can hear the water hit the umbrella.

V: Vase

Teach the child to pour water into the vase. Help the child make a flower arrangement in a vase.

W: Watch

Provide the child with a braille watch. Show her 12 o'clock – lunchtime.

X: Xylophone

Let the child play a xylophone.

Y: Yo-yo

Using hand-over-hand or hand-under-hand technique, teach the child to play with a yo-yo.

Z: Zipper

Help the child identify items that have zippers. Let him practice opening and closing zippers.

Caution when using small parts with children under 3 years old.

N: Necklace

Roll 1" x 3" paper strips (colorful and/or textured) into tubes and glue them. Run a string through the tubes to make a necklace. Tube shaped pasta can also be used.

To make a Cowboy Soda:

Roll the orange to make it juicy, then cut a hole in the top. Insert a soft peppermint stick (available in many stores and from Red Bird Brand). Use the candy stick as a straw to drink the juice.

O: Orange

Let the child smell and explore an orange. Help her peel and eat it.

P: Pineapple

Provide a pineapple for the child to explore. Cut it into pieces, allowing the child to feel it after each cut. Eat the fruit.

Q: Quilt

Explore a quilt or quilted pillow. Cut textured fabric and help the child glue together a small "quilt" on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Tissue can be added underneath to make it soft.

R: Rope

Teach the child to tie a knot with a rope. If your gym has a rope for climbing, let her explore it. Play tug-of-war, or if there are several children, use a soft rope to have three-legged races.

S: Sock

Have the child take off one of his socks and lay it flat. Compare it to the drawing. If the sock fits inside the drawing, place it there.

- Turn the page and practice fine-motor tracing skills by using the template to create the braille character on the reverse side of the letter page. If using a CCTV or slant board, it may be better to cut the template from the cover and tear out the needed pages. The spiral attachment does help keep the template in place for learners with limited mobility skills.
- For even more reinforcement, you can create a raised-line braille cell drawing using APH Quick-Draw™ Paper (#1-04960-00). It can be purchased separately and used with the tracing template for a "take home" project.
- Use the template and the dot chips as a puzzle to create the braille character.
- Provide the student with a real-life example of the illustration, and encourage exploration. The examples are easily obtainable at home or school.
- Color the illustration.
- If the child has mastered the character recognition, you can go one step further. On the blank page before the next lesson, allow the child to draw any item beginning with the letter. For example, when teaching the letter "B," give the child a book. Invite the child to explore the item (feel it, smell it, even taste it when applicable) and then encourage the child to draw it.
- You can create additional enrichment activities for each letter.

Suggested Enrichment Activities

A: Apple

Let the child explore and eat an apple. Go to an apple orchard and pick apples together.

B: Ball

Play ball with the child. Explore different size balls. Go to a ball game together.

C: Cane

Provide a variety of canes and carved walking sticks for the child to explore.

D: Drum

Help the child make a drum using a cylinder oatmeal canister or other material. Experiment with sounds.

E: Eraser

Let the child explore and use several different shapes of erasers, both rubber and braille.

F: Fork

Compare a fork to other eating utensils. Teach the child to set the table. Let child sort utensils in the utensil tray/drawer.

G: Grapes

Sample different varieties of grapes and discuss which tastes best. Drink grape juice.

H: Hat

Help the child make a hat by using a large paper grocery bag. Roll the edges outward until it reaches the desired size. Let the child put it on and mold it himself by pressing it to his head. Provide a variety of hats to explore and discuss the purpose for each hat.

I: Ice cream cone

Take the child to an ice cream shop and let him sample three flavors. Allow him to choose one for his cone.

J: Jewels

Use large faceted acrylic jewels, available at craft stores, or use costume jewelry. Go on a treasure hunt to find the jewels. Upon finding them, sort the jewels by shape or color. Revisit the letter “H” and decorate your hat with the jewels.

Caution when using small parts with children under 3 years old.

K: Key

Provide a variety of keys to examine, and let the child practice locking and unlocking doors, cabinets, boxes, etc.

L: Leaf

Show the child how to collect leaves and press them between the pages of a thick book. Make a collage by gluing real leaves to paper.

M: Mask

Have the child color the mask in the book and cut it out. Attach elastic or string to wear it.

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