American Sign Language (ASL) Alphabet Tiles

(Deaf/Hard of Hearing Kit – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
This 26-piece set features impressed upper- and lower-case letters and corresponding American Sign Language (ASL) pictures on 2 1/2 x 3-inch tiles made from sustainable rubberwood. There are hand signs on one side and alphabet letters on the opposite side of the wooden tiles so children can learn to sign each letter. The uppercase letters are traceable and have added tactile interest so children can practice the letter formation with their fingers or write them down. Colors are made from vegetable dye and coated with a non-toxic finish. Note: Learning the American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet, also known as fingerspelling, involves memorizing the handshapes for each letter of the alphabet. It's a foundational skill for ASL communication, enabling users to spell out words and names that don't have a specific sign. Additionally, learning the American Sign Language alphabet develops awareness and sensitivity and cultural and linguistic diversity.	 Purchasing Information Product video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Are deaf or hard of hearing and need early exposure to ASL.
- Have other disabilities that may make spoken communication challenging and may instead use ASL to support communication.
- Need additional help understanding the connection between letters, words, and communication systems.
- Have adequate fine motor skills to point, trace, pick up tiles, and use their hands to imitate ASL signs.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity for children to…

- Establish a connection between ASL and letters.
- Promote general language development and ASL.
- Develop competencies in communicating using ASL specifically.
- Develop fine motor skills by stacking blocks and practicing sign language.
- Increase awareness of letters of the alphabet.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • ASL Alphabet Tiles can be used in any environment, such as community, home, school, etc., due to their easy portability (small size and weight). Positioning • The ASL Alphabet Tiles would work best played on a flat surface where the cards could be easily viewed. • A child could interact with the tiles sitting at a table or on the floor, standing, or lying on their belly. Alternate Positioning • The ASL Alphabet Tiles cards could also be used on a slant board to improve physical and/or visual access of the tiles. Basic Play/Use • Open-ended exploration. • Arrange tiles on a flat surface. When the child picks up a tile, point to the letter on the tile, name it, and sign the letter. Point to the picture of the sign language symbol and encourage the child to sign the letter. If the child needs more support, sign the letter again, and physically help the child form the sign if necessary. • Use the tiles like flashcards, showing each tile separately, finger spelling the letter displayed on the tile, and asking the child to sign the letter.	Optional Additional Materials/Supplies • Foam board Stabilize It • Tiles could be placed in a card holder to stabilize. A simple card holder can be made from pool noodles or Legos (See DIY Alternatives). Simplify It • The number of tiles presented to the child at one time can be limited initially and increased over time. Contain it • Place tiles in a tray to keep them in a confined area. Work mats or colored painters' tape can also be used to visually define spaces where the tiles can be used. Add Sensory Cues • Tiles could be displayed on a high contrast background. Communication Support • Guide block selections with pointing; use vocabulary such as “pick up”, “put on”, “find (insert names of letters)”. • Consider using/modeling comments using a communication board if appropriate to the child’s needs (does not have the manual dexterity for ASL consistently or needs visual cues to communicate).

Extended Play/Use

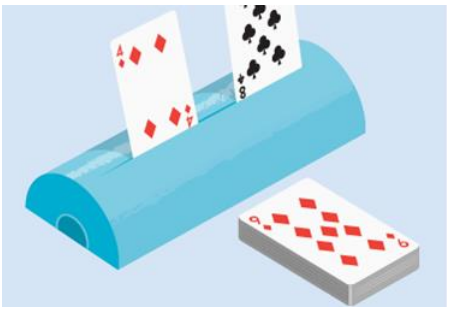
- Label and place a few of the tiles on the table, slantboard, or tile holder (See DIY). Ask the child to choose the named tile from the collection of tiles displayed.
- Select two tiles from a pile of tiles in front of the child and name (or sign) one of the two letters displayed. Ask the child to find the tile with the named letter on it and sign it. If the child is correct, they take the tile, and if not, the tiles are both returned to the pile of tiles. As the child gains mastery, additional tiles could be included to increase the choices available to the child.
- Print simple words on cards (no double letters). Encourage the child to match or spell the words using the tiles.
- Encourage the child to arrange the tiles in alphabetical order (with an alphabet strip if needed).

Play/Use with Others

- Create single picture cards of the tiles. Children take turns drawing cards, selecting the tile pictured, and signing the letter featured on the tile.
- Children take turns drawing cards with simple words printed on them. They find the tiles with the corresponding letters and reproduce the word with the tiles.

DIY Alternatives

- Create your own tiles using cardstock or foam board. Glue picture of ASL alphabet signs onto the card stock or foam board.
- Make a matching game by reproducing ASL alphabet letter signs on one set of cards and single alphabets letters on another.
- Pool noodle card holder or Lego card holder could be used to hold a selection of tiles vertically.



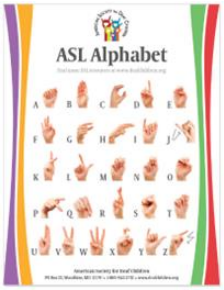


Additional Considerations:

- Display an ASL Alphabet chart for easy reference (See Additional Resources).

Additional Resources:

- Free ASL Alphabet Chart from American Society for Deaf Children



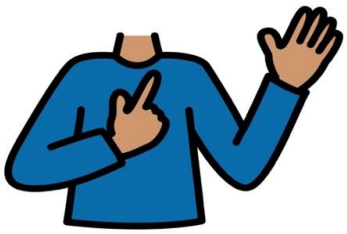
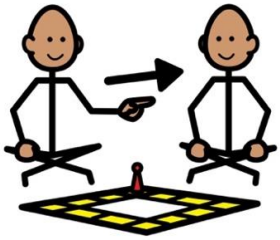
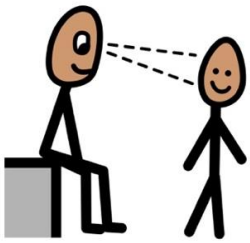
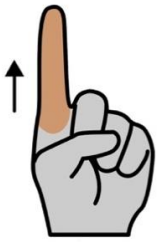
- Kids Sign Language for Kids - ASL Kids offers free video lessons, an ASL alphabet poster, tips on getting started and a free ASL dictionary app.
- ASL Stories Directory - This ASL Stories Directory makes it easy to find hundreds of free videos of ASL retellings of favorite children's books. Research shows that reading and signing stories together helps promote essential literacy skills for ALL children: deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing. Use the ASL Stories Directory to quickly find stories by age or by the book's title.
- Fun American Sign Language Games to Help You Learn ASL - provides a list of easy games to play with common classroom materials. There is also a list of other games for purchase.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- LL: Language and Communication. Develops and expands understanding of vocabulary and concepts (1b.).
- LL: Print Awareness: Develops knowledge of print organization. (3.a.).
- LL: Print Awareness. Develops knowledge of the alphabet (3b.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Persists in completing a task with increasing concentration (1.c.).
- PW: Motor Development: Demonstrates developing control of fundamental fine motor skills, including hand-eye coordination (1.b).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

In addition to the 26 letters represented in the tiles, consider the following:

My turn 	Your turn 	Try again 
Watch me 	Like this 	Want help? 
Finger up 	Make Fist 	Sign 

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo

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