SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

Lowercase Alphabet Dough Stampers

(Art – COE Kit)

Description:	Image:
The 26 stampers each have their matching letter printed on top for easy location of the desired stamps, and impressions are scaled to Uppercase Alphabet Dough Stampers available in Art Kit. Stampers come in a zipper bag; handles measure 4" in length. Dough sold separately.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Have difficulty holding writing tools.
- Experience motor challenges that interfere with combining strokes to form letters.
- Express a desire to "write".

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Form letters by stamping them in dough.
- Practice "writing" letters and words.
- Engage in art activities which may include a discussion about letters.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Consider a designated area for dough play which might include an easy to clean mat or a cookie sheet. • Avoid carpeted area when using play dough.	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Foam • Wikki Stix • Sand or shaving cream • Shallow rimmed tray (e.g. cookie sheet

Positioning

- These stamps can potentially be used in a variety of positions; however it is important that the user(s) can view them and reach them easily.
- Stamping activities work best when dough is placed on a solid, flat surface (ex. tabletop, floor, tray, slant board).

Basic Play/Use

- Provide dough and stamps without specific directions, allow children to explore letter shapes and combinations.

Extended Play/Use

- Provide laminated cards with letter sequences, words, or the child's name so they can practice locating the letters and stamping them to match what is printed on the card(s).
- Match letter stamps to an alphabet strip.

Play/Use with Others

- Pair children and show them how to form a Tic Tac Toe Grid in dough. Encourage them to choose a letter to play.

Build It Up

- Build up stamp handles. Consider adding form roller grips.

Stabilize It

- Try doughs of various densities or textures so that stamps do not shift when being pressing into dough.
- Fill a shallow container with dough, varying thickness of layer of dough so that stamps result in clear impression of the selected letter (s).

Simplify It

- Offer only a few letters at a time, perhaps starting with letters of the child's name.

Contain It

- Place dough and stamps on a rimmed cookie sheet or box lid so that the area to be stamped is defined and contained.

Add Sensory Cues

- Add textures to the handles of the stamps for additional sensory information.
- Provide other substances to use with stamps such as damp sand or shaving cream.
- Explore various doughs/recipes (e.g. Kool Aid Play Dough) to add texture, scents, etc.

Communication Support

Provide paper-based communication board with alphabet letters and activity related words such as help, more, finished, stop, go, etc.

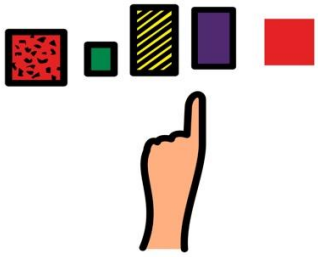
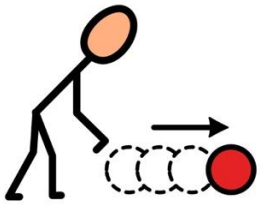
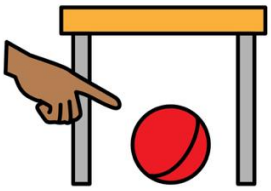
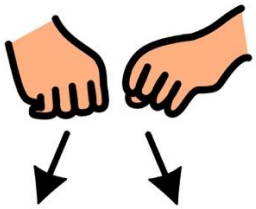
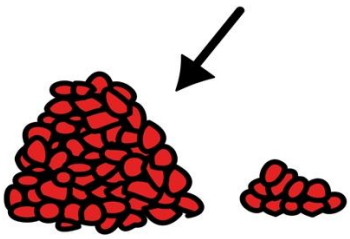
DIY Alternatives

- Experiment with DIY play dough recipes.

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- LL: Print Awareness: Develops knowledge of the alphabet (3 b.).
- CR: Artistic Engagement and Expression: Expresses ideas and feelings through visual art (1.a.).

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Choose/pick 	Roll 	Find 
What (letter/word) did you make? 	Push 	Stamp 
Hold 	Try 	Again 
More 	Finished 	

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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