PlanToys Braille Wooden Alphabet A-Z

(Early Literacy Braille Manipulatives – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
This 26-piece Braille Alphabet Set is a fun, hands-on way to introduce both braille and print letters to young learners. Each sturdy, two-sided tile features an uppercase letter on one side and a lowercase letter on the other—along with the corresponding braille symbol for each. Designed for children ages 2 and up, the large tiles (measuring 2 5/8" x 3 1/4") are perfectly sized for small hands, making it easy for little ones to feel and explore each letter and braille dot pattern. Perfect for early literacy, spelling games, sensory play, and braille learning, this set supports inclusive education and tactile development. Crafted from sustainable, chemical-free materials and finished with non-toxic, water-based dyes—safe for kids and kind to the planet.	 Purchasing Information

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Have low vision or are blind.
- Learn best through tactile exploration or need additional sensory cues to learn early literacy skills, such as letter recognition.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Increase early literacy skills by introducing upper and lower case letters.
- Develop knowledge of the alphabet in both braille and print.
- Develop tactile discrimination skills.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction. • Can be used at school, home, or the community. **Positioning** • PlanToys Braille Wooden Alphabet Tiles can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc. **Alternate Positioning** • Alternate positioning of side-lying, Tummy Time position (prone), supine (lying on the back), kneeling, etc. may also be possible. **Basic Play/Use** • Learn the upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet in both print and braille. • Encourage tactile and visual exploration. • Exposure to braille dots that make up each letter of the alphabet. • Directionality Practice: Help students understand top/bottom and left/right orientations using Braille tiles. **Extended Play/Use** • Matching Activities: Match Braille tiles with corresponding print tiles, or uppercase with lowercase letters. • Guess the Letter: Place a tile in a bag and have students identify the letter by touch only. • Memory Matching Games: Create pairs (e.g., Braille A with print A) and play a tactile version of Memory. • Use the tiles together with a swing cell or other braille model and have the child recreate the letter they choose from the group of tiles. • Introduce letter sounds as well as letter names to develop literacy skills. Have the	**Optional Additional Materials/Supplies** • Dycem • Velcro **Stabilize It** • Place Dycem under the tiles to create a non-slip surface, helping keep them in place for children who might accidentally push them away while exploring with their hands. • Attach Velcro to the back of each tile and use a Velcro-friendly board to keep them in place, providing stability for children who need the tiles to stay stationary while exploring. This would also allow for the tiles to be presented on a raised surface such as an All-in-One Board from APH. **Simplify It** • Reduce the number of tiles you give to a child to explore at one time. • If asking the child to find or match a specific letter, limit the choices. • Use hand under hand to assist a child who is blind or has low vision to encourage and demonstrate tactile exploration. **Contain it** • Use a tray with raised edges—such as a baking sheet—to help create a clearly defined workspace. This is especially beneficial for students who are blind, as it allows them to more easily locate and organize materials like tiles within a contained area. • Store the tiles in a basket or tub with a lid. **Add Sensory Cues** • Add a tactile cue to the tile so a student who is blind or low vision knows the correct orientation of the tiles when learning and reading letters. Ex: dot of puffy paint on the top of the tile. **Communication Support** • For students with some vision, provide a communication board with vocabulary appropriate (e.g. touch, top, bottom, more,

child say the letter name and the sound that letter makes.
- Spelling Games- Introduce and practice making CVC words with the tiles. Use a visual or tactile model of the word and have the child recreate the word using the tiles.

Play/Use with Others
- Including both braille and print enables and encourages students with low vision or blindness to play with peers.
- Have children play with the alphabet tiles together by working together to find specific letters, sort by color or stack the tiles as high as they can!
- Story Starters: Randomly choose tiles and work together to create a story using words that start with those letters, encouraging creative thinking.

color selection vocabulary, shape vocabulary, etc.) for the child to engage with the PlanToys Braille Wooden Alphabet Tiles.

Alternative Uses
- Use the tiles to teach the names of colors.
- Practice stacking the tiles on top of each other. See how high the child can stack them.
- Use the tiles to practice counting using one-to-one correspondence.

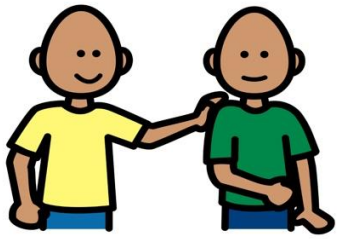
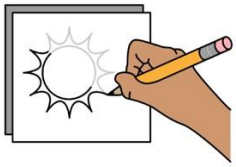
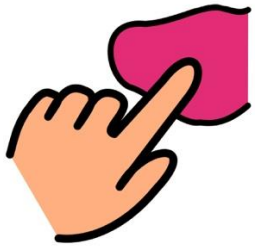
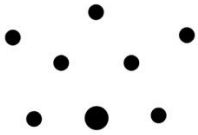
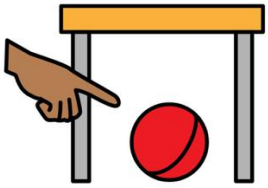
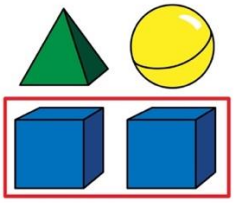
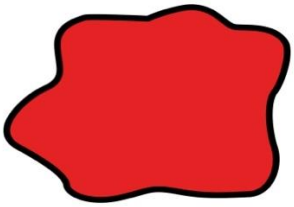
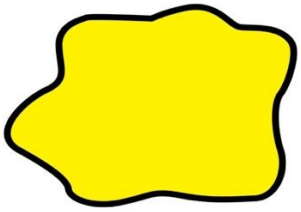
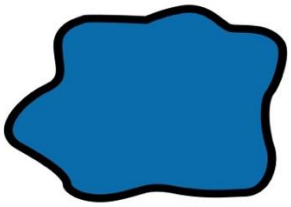
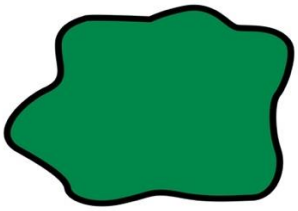
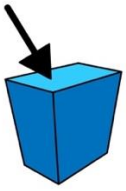
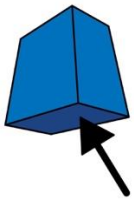
DIY Alternatives
- Add dots to make braille letters using puffy paint to alphabet blocks that only have print letters on them.
- Create a set of braille ABC cards using card stock and buttons: Easy DIY Braille ABC Cards.

Additional Considerations:
- Recommended for ages 2+

Additional Resources:
- Activity ideas for learning braille letters.
- Read more about hand under hand guidance and technique.

Ohio Early Learning Standards
- LL: Print Awareness: Develops knowledge of print organization. (3.a.).
- LL: Print Awareness: Develops knowledge of the alphabet. (3.b.).
- AL: Engagement and Persistence: Engages in new and unfamiliar experiences and activities. (1.a.).
- CO: Memory: Develops the ability to recall information about objects, people, and past experiences. (1.a.)

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Touch 	Trace 	Feel 
Dots 	Find 	Letter Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff
Match 	Red 	Yellow 
Blue 	Green 	Top 
Bottom 		

Adapted from: Haugen's Modes for Adapting Toys based on materials from the "Let's Play" Project at the University of Buffalo. PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox, LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.