# SPARK: Simple Play Adaptations to Reference for Kids

## Reach & Match Alphabet Tiles

(Early Literacy Braille Manipulatives – EC COE)

| Description: | Image: |
| --- | --- |
| These 26 alphabet tiles can be used independently or in conjunction with The Reach & Match® Inclusive Education Kit. Each of the tiles has a corresponding shape, color, texture, sound, and tactile marking to represent a different letter in the English alphabet.<br>The Reach & Match, Alphabet Tiles are an accessory to the complete Reach & Match® Inclusive Education Kit. Each letter in the English alphabet corresponds to a tile that is differentiated by its shape, color, texture, sound, and tactile marking. With these additional tiles, students will be able to spell more words than before.<br><br>Letters A through G are represented by the round white and red tiles and have a tactile marking of four raised circles. The letters H through N are white and blue triangles and have a tactile marking of three parallel S curves. White and green square tiles represent letters O through T, and their tactile marking is five thin parallel straight lines. The remaining letters in the alphabet, U through Z, are characterized by white and yellow pentagon tiles. The tactile markings found on these six tiles are three thick parallel lines with rounded corners. | <br>Purchasing Information<br><br>Demo Video |

**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.
- Need an engaging multisensory activity to focus and attend to a task.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Learn braille and print letters.
- Learn shapes, textures and colors.
- Develop early literacy skills.
- Develop tactile discrimination skills.

| Instructions for Use: | Adaptation Ideas: |
|---|---|
| **Environmental Considerations**<br>• Can be used during large group activities, small group activities, and one-on-one instruction.<br>• Can be used at school, home or the community.<br><br>**Positioning**<br>• Reach & Match Tiles can be used in any position; seated, standing, on the floor, etc.<br>• Consider the surface where the child is reading the tiles. Ensure it allows the child to comfortably use their hands to explore and feel the letters clearly.<br><br>**Alternate Positioning**<br>• Alternate positioning of side-lying, lying on their belly (prone), lying on the back (supine), kneeling, etc. may also be possible especially when used together with the floor mat included in the The Reach & Match® Inclusive Education Kit.<br><br>**Basic Play/Use**<br>• Learn the letters of the alphabet in braille and print.<br>• Encourage tactile and visual exploration.<br>• Learn to discriminate basic shapes by sight and by touch.<br>• Identify, match or sort colors.<br><br>**Extended Play/Use**<br>• Ask the child to find a specific letter from a group of tiles.<br>• Sort the tiles into groups based on their color, shape or texture markings. | **Optional Additional Materials/Supplies**<br>• Dycem<br><br>**Stabilize It**<br>• 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.<br>**Simplify It**<br>• Reduce the number of tiles you give to a child to explore at one time.<br>• If asking the child to find a certain letter or color tile, limit the number of choices.<br>• Use hand under hand to assist a child who is blind or has low vision to encourage and demonstrate tactile exploration.<br>**Contain it**<br>• 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.<br>• Store the tiles in a basket or tub with a lid.<br><br>**Add Sensory Cues**<br>• Each tile already includes a tactile cue so a student who is blind or has low vision knows the correct orientation of the tile when learning and reading letters.<br>• Each tile makes a sound when you shake it.<br>**Communication Support**<br>• For students with some vision, provide a communication board with vocabulary |

- Identify if two tiles sound the same or different when you shake them.
- Use together with The Reach & Match® Inclusive Education Kit mat and place the tiles into the corresponding spots on the mat.

Play/Use with Others

- Including both braille and print enables and encourages students with low vision or blindness to play with peers.
- Work together with a peer to put the tiles in alphabet order or group them according to color, shape, or texture.
- Take turns finding requested tiles (e.g. the beginning letter of each child's name).

appropriate (e.g. touch, top, bottom, more, color selection vocabulary, shape vocabulary, etc.) for the child to engage with the Reach & Match Alphabet Tiles

Alternative Uses

- Use the tiles to teach shape names (circle, triangle, square, pentagon).
- Use the tiles to teach the names of colors (red, blue, yellow, green).
- Practice stacking the tiles on top of each other. See how high the child can stack them.

DIY Alternatives

- Add braille dots (using puffy paint or pearl stickers) to a set of wooden or foam shape blocks. Group sets of letters by color or shape of the blocks.
- Create a set of braille ABC cards using cardstock and buttons: Easy DIY Braille ABC Cards. Use different colors or cardstock and cut the cardstock into different shapes for each group of letters. Make sure to add the print letters as well so peers or family members can play with them as well.

Additional Considerations:

- Recommended for ages 3+

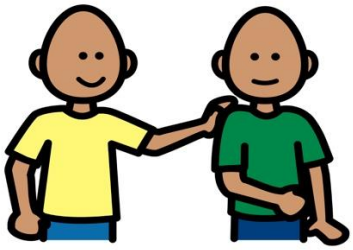
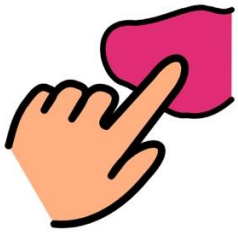
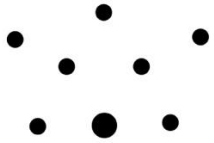
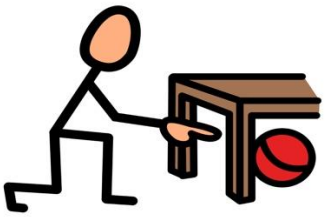
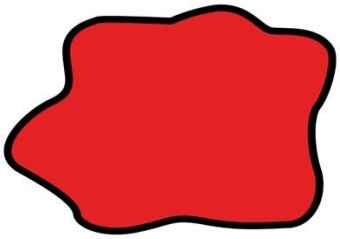
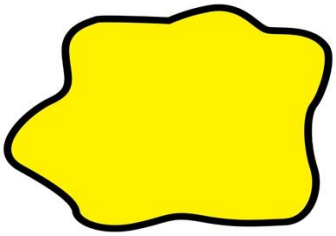
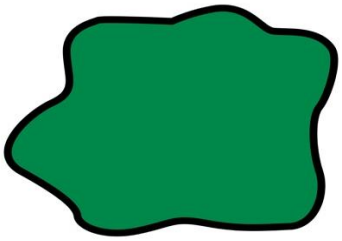
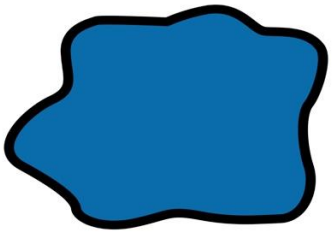
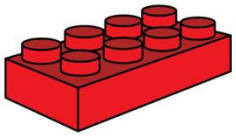
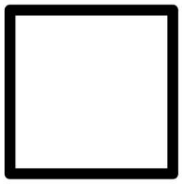
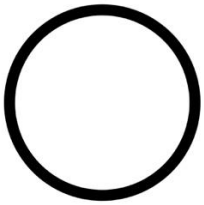
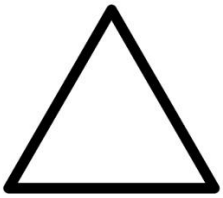
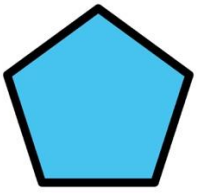
Additional Resources:

- Learn about more braille activities for children.
- Activity ideas for learning braille letters.
- Read more about hand under hand guidance and technique.
- Reach & Match offers an online training course which includes 40 activities, games and lesson plans. For more information visit Reach & Match.

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  | Feel  | Dots  |
| Find  | Red  | Yellow  |
| Green  | Blue  | Tile  |
| Square  | Circle  | Triangle  |
| Pentagon  | | |

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