

# ALPHABET Sorting KIT

**Designed to meet these objectives:**

## Language

- Students will recognize and identify upper- and lowercase letters.
- Students will match upper- and lowercase letters.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet.

Your new kit provides plenty of hands-on letter recognition and identification practice—just what students need to develop essential pre-reading skills! With 4 complete upper- and lowercase alphabet sets, plus 4 copies of each sorting mat, the kit is ideal for small-group use.

## What's Included

- 24 sorting mats (4 each of 6 designs)
- 208 plastic letters (4 different color sets of 52 upper- and lowercase letters)
- Storage box

## Before You Begin

Depending on how you want students to sort the letters, you may want to organize the letters by color and/or case, or simply mix the letters together and put them all into the storage box.

Be sure to use only dry-erase markers on the write & wipe surface. To prevent ink from beading, prime the mats by drawing on them with a dry-erase marker, and then erase by rubbing vigorously with a dry textured cloth or paper towel. Repeat if necessary. Remember to wipe away any markings left on the mats before putting them away. Do not allow markings to remain overnight.

*(continued on back)*



### **WARNING:**

**CHOKING HAZARD**—Small parts.  
Not for children under 3 yrs.

# Getting Started

Before you begin any sorting activity, invite students to explore the letters. Encourage them to identify any letters they recognize. Talk about different characteristics of the letters, such as their color, shape, size, whether they are made of straight or curved lines, and so on.

Once children are familiar with the letters, choose a sorting mat to demonstrate, such as “Letters in My Name.” Ask a volunteer to help you model the activity. Give her a set of plastic letters and invite her to choose one. Have her identify the letter, and then ask, “Is this letter in your name?” Help her place the letter in the appropriate place on the card. (Prompt her to compare the letter to her name card if necessary.) Continue until all of the letters in the set have been sorted onto the card. Repeat with other volunteers until students understand the activity. Then, place the sorting mat and letter sets in your language center for independent practice.

## About the Sorting Mats

There are 6 different mat designs to choose from, including *Lowercase Letter Sort*, *Uppercase Letter Sort*, *Straight Lines/Curved Lines/Both*, *Letters in My Name/Letters Not in My Name*, *Two-Way Sort*, and *Three-Way Sort*. The *Two-Way Sort* and *Three-Way Sort* are open-ended, so you can write in the sorting rule you want students to follow. Some possibilities are suggested below.

### Two-Way Sorts

- Vowels and consonants
- Uppercase letters and lowercase letters
- Letters with dots and letters without dots
- Letters with tails and letters without tails
- Tall letters and short letters
- Letters with closed loops (such as *R* or *b*) and letters without closed loops (such as *E* or *h*)

### Three-Way Sorts

- Letters in my first name/letters in my last name/letters not in my name
- Red uppercase letters/green uppercase letters/other letters (There are many other sorting possibilities using colors.)
- Tall letters/short letters/letters with tails

Encourage students to think of new ways to sort the letters! Be sure to have them explain their sort when they have completed it.