

# Alphabet Activity Carpet

A different square for each letter of the alphabet creates a classroom carpet with room for everyone to learn! All 26 squares feature both an uppercase and lowercase letter. Plus, a familiar animal or object is pictured in each square to help children associate letters with their sounds. As you incorporate the carpet into classroom activities, your students will build stronger letter identification skills every day! Below are some fun ideas to get you started.

## Letter Matching

The carpet is ideal for letter matching! Provide plastic or foam letters (or write the letters on index cards) and encourage children to find the carpet squares that match the letters. Use uppercase letters initially, then add lowercase letters when children are ready. As the children become more familiar with the letters, help them learn the letter sounds by associating the pictures with the corresponding letters.

## Cross the Carpet

Reinforce letter recognition skills with a trip across the carpet. Invite up to five children to stand along one of the long sides of the carpet. Explain that on each turn, a player may step or jump to a square in the next row. Then, he must name the letter and/or object that are in that square. If he gets it right, he may stay; if not, he must return to his previous square. Play until everyone reaches the other side of the carpet.

## Alphabet Song

Sing the alphabet song as a fun way to familiarize children with the letters. Have each child choose a different square to stand on. Then, explain that you are all going to sing the Alphabet Song. Have each child sit down when she hears the letter she is standing on. Sing the song slowly to make sure children have time to recognize their letters and sit down. Then have everyone sing the song again, but this time, prompt the children to stand up when they hear their letters. Repeat this activity on other days, inviting children to choose different squares each time. To keep interest high, use new actions such as "raise your hand," "turn around," "stomp your feet" and so on.

## Musical Squares

Place plastic or foam letters in a paper bag. Then, encourage children to walk from square to square on the carpet as you play music. When you stop the music, have everyone stay on whatever squares they are on. Pull a letter from the bag, and challenge the child standing on that letter to name the letter and the object, such as "R is for rabbit." (If no one is standing on the letter, simply pull another letter out of the bag.) Continue the game, allowing the players to take turns pulling a letter from the bag each time the music stops.

As children develop their knowledge of the alphabet, make the game more challenging by having them name a second object that begins with the letter on their square, for example, "R is for rabbit...and ring!"

## Classroom Management

This carpet is a powerful classroom management aid and a great tool for organizing activities. Have children choose seats on the carpet, or distribute paper tickets to assign seats by letter. Then, it's easy to:

- Dismiss children to work at learning centers by color.
- Divide children into teams or work groups by color.
- Direct children to line up in an orderly fashion by letter.
- Take attendance quickly by assigning a space to each student.

*(continued on back)*

## Suggested Cleaning Methods

**Professional steam cleaning** is the best way to clean your carpet. Many services are available to clean your carpet for you. **Dry cleaning** is your next best choice. It's easy and inexpensive. Simply call Customer Service at the number below and ask for information about our dry-cleaning products. **Traditional shampooing** or **self-serve steam cleaners** are **not** recommended.

### Helpful Hints

- Do not walk on the carpet if it is wet or damp.
- Vacuum carpet daily.
- Clean carpet at regular intervals (before carpet is visibly dirty).
- Spot-clean high-traffic areas between overall cleanings.

### Storing Your Carpet

When rolling up your carpet, roll it around the tube provided. (Constant rolling & unrolling can cause the backing to crack, so do so only when necessary.) **Beware of electric floor polishers:** Electric floor polishers can be very hard on the edges of your carpet. If your carpet is in an area serviced by this kind of equipment, move it out of the way before any polishing is done.

### Spills and Stains

Absorb wet spills with a clean cloth or wet paper towel. Apply a small amount of the recommended cleaning agent to the stain (see chart below). Work from the edges of the stain to the center. Dry the area with a cloth or paper towel. For best results, remove stains *immediately*. **Note:** Whenever you use a new cleaning agent, test it on a small area of the carpet first.

### STAIN

### RECOMMENDED CLEANING AGENT

Blood . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Chocolate . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia diluted with water
Clay . . . . .	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Coffee. . . . .	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Cola . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Crepe paper dye . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Egg. . . . .	Detergent
Food coloring . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Glue . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Grape juice . . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Ice cream . . . . .	Detergent
Ink (washable). . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Ketchup . . . . .	Detergent
Milk . . . . .	Detergent
Mustard . . . . .	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Orange drink. . . . .	Detergent or ammonia
Tea . . . . .	Detergent
Tomato juice . . . . .	Detergent
Urine. . . . .	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Vomit . . . . .	Detergent and white vinegar diluted with water
Watercolors. . . . .	Detergent or ammonia

**For Customer Service, call (800) 428-4414**