

Sponge Prints

Primary Objectives

16a. Identifies and names letters

Why It's Important

When children handle magnetic letters, alphabet blocks, or letter-shaped cookie cutters, they begin to notice the shapes of letters. They also are exploring letters as parts of words. This activity will allow your child to talk about the letters he recognizes as he paints with the letter-shaped sponges.

Materials

Colored construction paper; tempera or washable paints; letter-shaped sponges

What You Do

1. Invite your child to work with you to use sponge letters for printing. Include up to 10 sponge letters, including those found in his name.
2. Encourage him to find the sponge letter that is the same as first letter in his name. Talk about the characteristics of the letter. *You found the H. It has three straight lines—two lines next to each other and another line that connects them.*
3. After your child has talked about all of the letters, invite him to use the sponges and paints to create a painting.
4. Describe what you see him doing and the letters he is using. Talk about any similarities between the letters he works with. *I see the letter D on your paper. It is next to the P. They both have a straight line and curved line.*
5. When he is finished, hang up his artwork on the wall. Encourage him to look for other places around the house or neighborhood where he sees the same letters that are in his painting.