

Suggested Activities for Alphabet and Picture Cards

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Before beginning an activity, provide each student with a set of **Alphabet and Picture Cards**.

Consonants and Vowels Sort Invite students to sort the cards into two piles, consonants and vowels.

What's the Letter? Ask each student to spread the cards letter side up. Say a word and ask students to hold up the card with the letter they hear at the beginning of the word. For example, if you say **hat**, students would hold up **H**. Also use this activity to practice final or medial sounds.

Picture and Sound Match Pair each student with a partner. Ask one student to spread the cards picture side up. Ask the other student to spread his or her cards letter side up. Have students take turns matching a letter to the picture whose name begins with that sound.

Alphabet Recap Ask each student to put the cards in alphabetical order. (Students may use the number in the lower left corner of each card if they need help.) Prompt students to sing "The Alphabet Song" as they look at each letter. Ask each student to randomly pick a card from the pile and identify the letter. For a greater challenge, ask the student to name a word that begins with that letter.

Letters and Names Ask students to spread their cards letter side up. Ask each student, in turn, to stand up and say his or her first name out loud. Invite the class to hold up the card showing the letter that begins the student's name. Ask the "name student" to decide whether the class's response is correct.

Letters and Shapes Ask each student to spread the cards letter side up. Describe a letter's shape. For example, to describe **O** you might say, "I am thinking of a letter that looks like a big circle. What's the letter?" Ask students to hold up the letter. **Note:** Because this activity requires students to picture letters in their minds, it may be challenging.

Word Families Pair each student with a partner. Write common word families (e.g., **-at, -an, -ap, -in, -op**, etc.) on cards. Give one card to each pair of students. Ask students to take turns putting a letter in front of this card and reading the newly formed word out loud. Partners should decide whether the combination they have created is a real word. Have students write a list of the words they create.

Long and Short Vowels Ask each student to spread the cards picture side up and then sort them into three groups:

- picture names with a short vowel sound
- picture names with a long vowel sound
- picture names whose vowel sound is neither clearly long nor short

Can You Spell It? Organize partners. Ask one student to spread the cards picture side up and the other student to display the cards letter side up. Tell students to take turns choosing a picture and using letters from the other pile to spell the picture name. **Note:** The only items that repeat letters within a word are **ball, egg, Jeep, queen, umbrella**, and **zipper**.

