



Communication, Language, and Literacy Activity for 48 to 54 Months

Alpha-Bags

This activity encourages the development of sorting and classifying skills while familiarizing children with different letters of the alphabet.

Materials:

- Variety of small toys and objects
- Plain paper sacks
- Markers

What to do:

1. Label two or three bags with two or three different letters of the alphabet, choosing three letters that sound very differently. Collect small items or pictures that begin with each letter. Examples: "B" is for banana, boat, bell, block, and baby; "H" is for hippo, hat, horn, and house.
2. Dump the items or pictures in a pile. Show the child your different sacks.
3. Talk about the letter that appears on each sack and the sound the letter makes.
4. Pick up each item and describe it. Have the child decide which bag each item should go in.
5. Finish sorting the items, then dump out each and "check" to be sure they are in the right place. See if the children can think of other things that would go in each bag.
6. Create different alpha-bags as you introduce new letters. Have the child decorate the bags with drawings of objects that begin with the letter on the bag.

