

# Activity: Alphabet Icicles



	Directions	Materials Needed
<p><b>Getting Ready</b> Setting the stage for excited and engaged learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage children to identify different letters – in their names, in books, on signs</li> <li>Write different letters up on a white board or chart paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alphabet Books</li> <li>Cards with alphabet letters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity</b> Directions should be adapted to fit the individual skills of children</p>	<p><b>PS-K</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut out capital alphabet letters from construction paper</li> <li>Lay the letters on wax paper – tape letter onto wax paper at the top of the letter</li> <li>Drizzle white glue (can add glitter) on letter, make sure to add a heavy layer of glue on bottom of letter</li> <li>Slightly lean the letter/wax paper up against a ledge so that glue drips down</li> <li>Use a toothpick to elongate the glue on bottom so that it looks like icicles</li> <li>Let dry</li> <li>Peel from wax paper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction paper</li> <li>Letter tracers</li> <li>Scissors</li> <li>White glue</li> <li>Glitter – optional</li> <li>Wax paper</li> </ul>



	<p><b><u>School-Age</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children trace and cut out the letters for their name</li> <li>• Glue letters onto a piece of construction paper</li> <li>• Trim around name</li> <li>• Drizzle glue on name, with a heavy layer of glue on bottom of name</li> <li>• Slightly lean the letter/wax paper up against a ledge so that glue drips down</li> <li>• Use a toothpick to elongate the glue on bottom so that it looks like icicles</li> <li>• Let dry</li> <li>• Peel from wax paper</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reflection</b> Extending the learning, encouraging critical thinking</p>	<p><b><u>Things to reflect on</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes icicles grow and hang down from roofs, tree branches or other ledges?</li> <li>• What are icicle-like growths called when they are in a cave?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Development Domains</b> Main development focus of activity</p>	<p><b>Primary Focus: Language &amp; Literacy</b> Common components within this area of development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading – understands the concepts of print materials including comprehension, print/book orientation, vocabulary development and phonetics, as well as enjoyment of having books read to them or reading themselves</li> <li>• Writing –demonstrates the mechanics of writing including fine motor skill development, and understands that writing is a way of communication including vocabulary and idea development</li> <li>• Speaking – (expressive language) the ability to verbally express ideas, wants and thoughts, and the development and use of vocabulary to communicate with others; for some this includes being able to speak English as well as their home language</li> <li>• Listening – (receptive language) the ability to understand verbal and non-verbal cues, follow verbal directions, and increased vocabulary development for comprehending stories and conversation</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary Focus: Social &amp; Emotional</b> Common components within this area of development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-concept development – the development of positive self-confidence, self-esteem and understanding of themselves</li> <li>• Emotional development – the understanding of emotions of self and others, and developing strategies for self-regulation and resiliency</li> <li>• Social competence and relationship development – the ability to establish relationships with peers and adults, and the understanding of positive social behaviors</li> </ul> <p><b>Approaches to Learning</b> Common components within this area of development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest in learning including curiosity and risk taking – how children approach new learning</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning strategies such as imagination, invention and persistence - how children apply new learning</li> <li>• Reflective learning practices such as reflection, interpretation and application – how children assimilate new learning into already acquired learning</li> </ul>
<b>School/life Readiness Skill Development</b>	<p><b>Preschoolers</b> are being exposed to all sorts of new knowledge and experiences every day. Discovering how icicles are created is not only interesting, but icicles can be very beautiful. Showing children how to make 'glue icicles' helps them to understand how gravity pulls things downward. As they further explore icicles, they will discover how melted snow/ice flows downward and then refreezes to make the icicles grow. Discovery learning helps children to develop an excitement and love of learning.</p> <p><b>School-agers</b> should also be encouraged to discover how icicles grow and develop. They can be challenged to find other ways to create icicles, or to use icicles in different art forms. School-agers can also be introduced to how stalactites are created in caves – very similar process to icicles. Through nurturing exploration and discovery, school-agers are developing a life-long love of learning.</p>

