

Letters & Literacy



Additional Literacy Experiences for
the Gee Whiz Unit
“So Many Colors!”



Important Information

The following experiences are designed to complement the December 2021 Gee Whiz teaching unit, "So Many Colors!" These experiences are not required! Instead, they are a tool you can use to integrate an exposure of letter names, letter sounds and creative writing into the curriculum IF you feel your children are ready. This website has great information on print and alphabet knowledge. There are four sections to explore: KNOW, SEE, DO, IMPROVE. Check it out: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/effective-practice-guides/print-alphabet-knowledge>

Keep in mind that children develop at their own rates. Many four and even five-year-olds may not be ready to identify letters and this is OK. You need to think about each individual child and his/her level of development. These activities and experiences should only be used with those children who you feel are ready to explore letter concepts.

Additionally, to make sure that you are exposing children to letter names, letters sounds and writing in a meaningful way, this document provides suggested times when we feel it would be meaningful to do so.



Letter Exposure Activities for “So Many Colors!”

Activity Title	Page #	Letter(s) to	How?
Water & Markers	5	Many different letters	<p>During this experience, the children will experiment with washable markers and water. As part of this experience, with children who are developmentally ready, tie in writing letters. Encourage children to write any letters they would like with washable markers. Some children may choose to write their names. Others may choose to simply write the same letter again and again. Anything the children choose to do is fine! Just be sure to talk with the children as they write. Then, once the children write letters (or their names ... or whatever they want), have them “paint” over the letters with water. What happens? Why do the children think this occurs? Now would also be an excellent time to reinforce colors.</p>
Pretty Primary Colors	6	R, E, D	<p>During this Exploring Together experience, the children will learn that the colors red, yellow and blue are called primary colors. While this experience focuses on the color word <i>red</i>, you could also explore the color words <i>yellow</i> and <i>blue</i> if you would like. To begin, print the word <i>red</i> on a sheet of paper while the children watch. Name each letter as you print it. Be sure to use a red marker to do so. You might even want to show the children how the word <i>red</i> is printed on the marker. Talk about the sound the letter R makes at the beginning of the word. Do any of the children have a name that begins with the same sound? Next, have the children help to create a Red Collage. They can help you print the word <i>red</i> on a large sheet of white paper with a red marker. Then, the children can add red art/collage materials around the word.</p>
Let's Go on an Orange Hunt	9	O	<p>During this experience, the children will go on an orange hunt to see how many different orange items they can find. As an extension of this experience, with children who are developmentally ready, print the word <i>orange</i> on a sheet of paper with an orange marker. Name each letter as you print it. Do the children have any of the letters in the word <i>orange</i> in their names? Next, get out the orange fingerpaint and fingerpaint paper. Invite the children to paint and then use their fingers to make both capital and lowercase letter Os in the paint. Some children may choose to write other letters, or even their names, as well. If so, this is great! Observe as the children play and take time to record an anecdotal note.</p>

Letter Exposure Activities for “So Many Colors!”

Activity Title	Page #	Letter(s) to Integrate	How?
Another New Color	10	Y	<p>During this Exploring Together experience, the children will discover that when yellow and blue paint are mixed, they create green. Because Y is a letter that does not occur much at the beginning of words, now is the perfect time to explore it. Use yellow chalk to print the word <i>yellow</i> on a sheet of black construction paper. Name each letter as you write it. Talk about the sound the letter Y makes at the beginning of the word. Do any of the children have a name that begins with the same sound? Next, have the children use yellow chalk to make a large letter Y on black construction paper. Then, challenge the children to find small yellow items to place on the Y. They might find blocks, stringing beads, etc.</p>
Printing with Purple	13	P	<p>During this experience, the children will create amazing art as they print with purple. As the children create, print the word <i>purple</i> on a sheet of white paper with a purple marker as the children watch. With children who are developmentally ready, name each letter as you write it. Talk about the sound the letter P makes at the beginning of the word. Do any of the children have a name that begins with the same sound? Next, provide the children with purple chenille stems or pipe cleaners. Challenge them to shape the stems into either capital or lowercase Ps.</p>
An Edible Rainbow	19	R	<p>During this tasty experience, the children will work together as they create rainbows they can eat! As a follow-up experience, with children who are developmentally ready, print the word <i>rainbow</i> on a sheet of paper while the children watch. Name each letter as you write it. Next, provide the children with large sheets of white paper, colored art/tissue (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple), glue/gluesticks and crayons/markers/pencils. Invite the children to use these materials to make their own rainbows. As the children watch, talk about the colors. Then, once each child completes his/her rainbow, get out some blank index cards. Have each child dictate a sentence about his/her rainbow for you to print on the card. Be sure to talk about letter names, letter sounds, sentences and even punctuation as you write. Attach the index card to each child's art before displaying.</p>