

PREP + JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

3 TO 5
YEARS
TRADITIONAL

MY NAME CLOTHESLINE

MATERIALS:

- SMALL PAPER CUPS WITH LIDS (THAT ARE ABLE TO BE CUT). ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN USE ANY CUP, AND COVER THE TOP TIGHTLY WITH FOIL.
- 2 STRAWS OR STRAW-SIZED WOODEN DOWELS FROM A CRAFT STORE
- A PIECE OF STRING (APPROXIMATELY 18 INCHES SHOULD WORK, A LITTLE LONGER IF YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS LONG)
- INDEX CARDS (ONE FOR EACH LETTER OF YOUR CHILD'S NAME, OR FOR A CHALLENGE, A FEW EXTRAS TO THROW IN A FEW DIFFERENT LETTERS)
- MARKERS OR CRAYONS
- CLOTHESPINS (ONE FOR EACH LETTER OF YOUR CHILD'S NAME)

OBJECTIVES:

- PHONETIC AWARENESS
- LETTER RECOGNITION
- EARLY SPELLING AND READING SKILLS
- PUT MULTIPLE LETTERS TOGETHER TO CREATE WORDS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- WRITE EACH LETTER OF YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON AN INDEX CARD, 1 LETTER PER CARD. IF YOUR CHILD IS OLDER AND RECOGNIZES THEIR NAME FAIRLY WELL ALREADY, YOU CAN ADD IN A FEW EXTRA LETTERS SO THEY HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THEIR NAME LETTERS. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD DO SEVERAL CARDS WITH EACH LETTER OF THE ALPHABET SO YOUR CHILD CAN PRACTICE CREATING OTHER WORDS, AND NOT ONLY THEIR NAME.
- TIE EACH END OF THE STRING AROUND THE TOP OF ONE OF THE STRAWS OR DOWELS SO YOU HAVE A STRAW OR DOWEL TIED TO EACH END.
- POKE ONE STRAW THROUGH THE TOP OF THE LID OF THE CUP (OR THE FOIL IF YOU USED THIS METHOD). THE STRAWS SHOULD STAND VERTICAL, WITH THE STRING HANGING ACROSS IN BETWEEN THEM, LIKE A CLOTHESLINE.
- TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE LETTERS IN THEIR NAME. "CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO SPELL YOUR NAME?" "YOUR NAME STARTS WITH AN M. DO YOU KNOW WHAT SOUND THE M MAKES?"
- ASK YOUR CHILD TO FIND THE LETTERS OF THEIR NAME. ONCE THEY ARE FOUND, SHOW THEM HOW TO CLIP THEM ON THE CLOTHESLINE USING THE CLOTHES PINS.
- YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD "HANG" THE LETTERS IN ORDER ON THE CLOTHESLINE TO SPELL THEIR NAME.
- ONCE YOUR CHILD HAS MASTERED THEIR OWN NAME, YOU CAN USE THE CLOTHESLINE TO PRACTICE PUTTING OTHER LETTERS TOGETHER TO SPELL OTHER WORDS. START SIMPLE WITH 3 OR 4 LETTER WORDS.
- BE SURE TO TALK ABOUT THE SOUNDS THAT LETTERS MAKE, AND EXPLAIN HOW TO PUT LETTERS TOGETHER SO THEIR SOUNDS MAKE WORDS. STARTING WITH A CHILD'S OWN NAME IS A GOOD WAY FOR THIS CONCEPT TO RESONATE AND MAKE SENSE TO THEM AS THEY BEGIN TO EXPLORE EARLY READING SKILLS.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MeritSchoolAtHome

