

Build Essential Phonics Skills

Help children construct knowledge about letter sound/symbol relationships. Invite them to listen for initial consonants with riddles from *Which Letter?* (40) Focus your lesson on hearing initial consonant sounds.

Which Letter?

This letter of the alphabet
is in some messy words you know,
like *mucky*, *muddy*, *mopping*, *milk*.
Now write some other words below!

Answer: Mm

Let's Practice!

The same initial sound appears in *messy*, *mucky*, *muddy*, *mopping*, and *milk*.

- ★ Read the poem together. Tell your students, *Say the sound your ears hear the most.*

- ★ Invite children to think of other words that begin with the same sound by asking, *What first sound does this group of words share?*
- ★ Brainstorm more words that begin with the same sound. Write the words students generate on chart paper, creating a word bank of Mm words. As you encounter more Mm words in literature, add those to your list!

•**Variation:** Encourage children to use words from the Mm word bank to compose stories. Each time a word in their stories begins with Mm, have your students underline it. Invite students to read their stories from your classroom's author chair. Celebrate literacy at every turn!

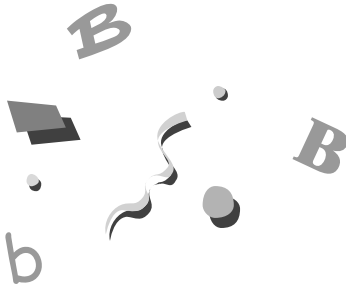
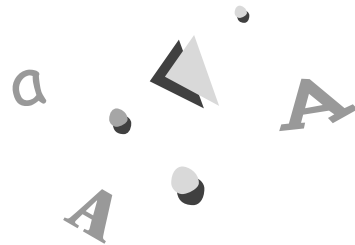


Which Letter?

This letter of the alphabet is in some awesome words you know, like alligator, ant, afraid.

Now write some other words below!

Answer: Aa



This letter of the alphabet is in some beautiful words you know, like bubble, bunny, butterfly.

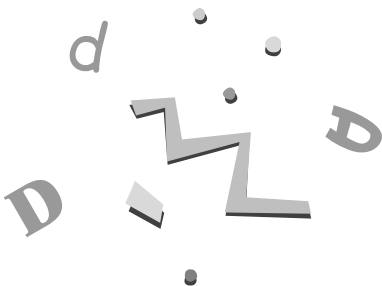
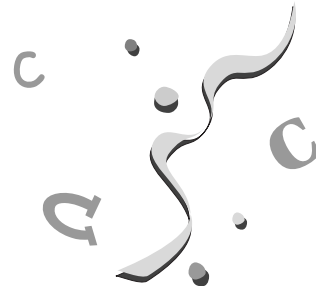
Now write some other words below!

Answer: Bb

This letter of the alphabet is in some cool words you know, like cactus, cake, and cottontail.

Now write some other words below!

Answer: Cc



This letter of the alphabet is in some dandy words you know, like dolphin, duck, and dinosaur.

Now write some other words below!

Answer: Dd