

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Letter knowledge

**TARGETED SKILL(S):**

Recognize lowercase and uppercase letters.

**DESCRIPTION**

Children will walk around a circle of mats while music is playing. Once the music stops, they will go to the closest mat. You will then throw a ball for a child to catch. That child will flip over their mat and say the name of the letter under their mat.

**SUITABLE FOR**

Whole group

**PREP-TIME**

5 min.

**DURATION OF ACTIVITY**

20 min.

**MATERIALS**

- **We provide:** 'Lowercase Letter Cards' or 'Uppercase Letter Cards'
- **You find:** Scissors; Mats; Music player; Soft soccer-sized ball

**PREPARATION**

1. Print and cut out the 'Lowercase Letter Cards' or the 'Uppercase Letter Cards'.
2. Place the mats in a large circle with a 'Letter Card' under each.
3. Locate a soft ball.
4. Have some fun music ready to play.

**What will we learn?**

"Today we're going to play a musical game where we identify hidden letters!"

**What do we know?**

1. Show one of the letter cards. "What letter is this? Yes, that's an 'm'!"
2. Pick another letter card. "What about this one? What letter is this?"
3. "What other letters have we learned?" Print the letters the children say on the board. Make sure all the letters used in the game are covered.

**Watch me first!**

1. "I'm going to show you how to play this game."
2. "Let's all sing a song while we walk around the mats – how about *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*?" Help the class get started on the song and as a group, start walking around the outside of the mat circle. Once you are done singing the song, say, "The music has stopped, let's all stand on the closest mat to each one of us."
3. Ask one of the students to throw the ball to you. Catch it and set it down.
4. "Since I am the one with the ball, I am the one who will look under my mat. Oh, there's a letter here. I will show it to you. Hmm... I think it's an 's'. What do you think – is it an 's'?" Have the students confirm it's an 's'.
5. "We will start up again and continue until everyone has had a turn to look under their mat."

**Let's try it!**

1. Stand in the middle of the circle with the ball and your music player.
2. Start the song and invite the children to walk around the mats.
3. Stop the song and wait until the children have found a mat to stand on.
4. Throw the ball to one of the children and invite them to step off their mat and lift it up.
5. "Show us your letter. What do you think it is? We can help if you're not sure." Ask the other children to confirm the name of the letter.
6. Have the child throw the ball back to you then repeat the steps above until everyone has had a turn to catch the ball and identify their letter.

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### What did we learn?

"We saw a lot of letters today! Were there some harder than others? Why do you think that is?" (Some letters are more common than others, and children may recognize letters in their names more easily.)

### Let's do more!

To make it more fun, change how the children move around the circle (e.g., skipping, dancing, walking very slowly, hopping on one foot).

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## EXTENDING THE LESSON

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### Less Challenging

- Add simple drawings to the letter cards (e.g., *dog* for 'd') so the children have a visual cue for learning the letters.
- Use letters that the children are more familiar with.
- Keep the number of mats and letters to a minimum so the children get to see the letters more than once.



### More Challenging

- Switch up the letters used between rounds or set up many mats and letters so the children can see the full alphabet.
- Have the children say the letter's sound as well as its name.



### TIPS

- If you don't have mats, use sheets of paper instead.
  - This game can be played indoors or outdoors.
  - This game is a great energizer activity.
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