

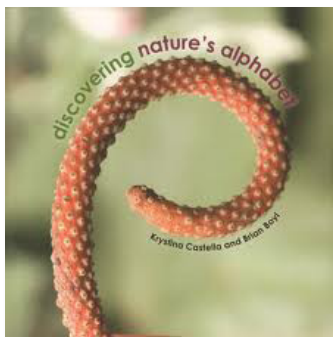
Looking for letters

Let's play and talk together

- ❖ Play a game with your child in which you look for letter shapes in your surroundings, either indoors or outside.
- ❖ Start with a simple shape such as the letter "O." Draw the shape on a piece of paper, talk about it, and take the paper with you as you look for the letter shape around the house or in your neighbourhood.
- ❖ Once your child understands the game, take turns pointing out other letter shapes as you find them. When you find a letter, point it out and say its name. If you can, trace the letter shape on the object with your fingers.



A good read-together book



Discovering Nature's Alphabet by Krystina Castella and Brian Boyl

You will need a pencil and paper to start the game.

This activity develops awareness of shapes and letter recognition, and encourages children to look at details in their surroundings.

Hints for success

- ❖ Begin with capital letters, which are easier for young children to learn and recognize.
- ❖ At first, play the game with one letter at a time. Later your child will be able to look for any letters that are familiar.

Those tree branches make lots of "V" shapes. Can you trace a "V" with your fingers?

Look! That swing in the playground has a "U" shape!

Ways to say it

More ideas for Looking for letters

Try this way

- ❖ Go on a letter hunt together around your neighbourhood. Encourage your child to find letter shapes in printed words on signs or posters and in the shapes of natural and man-made objects.
- ❖ Take an alphabet walk to see if you can find all the letters of the alphabet. Write all the letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper, and take it with you as you look for letter shapes. As you find each letter shape, mark it off with a pencil.

Early literacy

Take photos of the letter shapes that you find, print the pictures on plain paper and make an alphabet book or a book about just one letter. Help your child mark the letter shapes on the photos using a highlighter pen.

Physical activity

Invite your child to make letter shapes with different body parts, e.g. finger and thumb to make an "O" or arms outstretched to create a "T." Discover how many different letters can be made with the human body.

Book links

The Butterfly Alphabet: Photographs

by Kjell Block Sandved

Alphabet City by Stephen T. Johnson

