

Match and Spell

Contents:

12 double-sided 3-letter word boards, 8 double-sided 4-letter word boards, 68 letter cards

This versatile game can be played in several different ways to help children learn to read and spell.

Game 1: Matching, sounding out and reading

Setting up

- Each player chooses a word board and places it in front of them with the side showing the written word uppermost; the rest of the boards are set aside in a pile.
- The letter cards are spread, with the letters uppermost, on the table.

Object

To recognise and collect letters in order to spell first words.

To play

- The youngest player starts by matching a letter card from the centre to the first letter of the word on their word board, making the letter sound as they place it.
- Play then passes to the next player.
- Players must collect letters in the order the word is spelt.
- Once a word has been correctly spelt, the player should read the word aloud and can then choose another word board to complete.
- If a player cannot find a letter to match, then other players are encouraged to help them find the letter they are looking for.
- Play continues until all the word boards have been used.

Game 2: Sounding out and spelling phonetically

Setting up

- Each player chooses a word board and places it in front of them, with the side that **does not** show the written word uppermost (so that players learn to spell words phonetically and not by matching); the rest of the boards are set aside in a pile.
- Letter cards are spread, with the letters uppermost, on the table.

Object

To correctly sound out and spell as many words as possible.

To play

- The youngest player starts by sounding out the word they are trying to spell and then looks for the first letter of the word, from the cards in the centre, to place on their word board. When using the blank side of the word board, players must be particularly careful to put letter cards down in the correct order to spell the word.
- Play then passes to the next player.
- Once a word has been correctly spelt the player should read the word aloud and can then choose another word board to complete.
- If a player has difficulty in sounding out the word and finding the letter needed, guidance from an adult or help from other players is encouraged.
- Play continues until all the word boards have been used.

Game variations:

For a first introduction to reading and spelling, the games can be played with just the 3-letter word boards. The 4-letter word boards can be introduced as children grow in confidence.

To play with mixed ages and abilities, word boards can be used either way up depending on each player's ability.

To make the games more challenging the letter cards can be placed **face down** on the table for a matching and memory game.

These games can also be played as a single player activity, where the child can work through the word boards by themselves.

