

## Word Recognition

### Early Learning Content Standards

Name items in common categories (e.g. animals, food, clothing, transportation) (English Language Arts II.3).

Recognize and name some upper and lower case letters in addition to those in first name (*Language Arts I.6*).

## Hershey Kiss Matching Game

For this activity, you will need a bag of Hershey Kiss candies.

On the bottom of each Hershey Kiss, write a letter with magic marker on the wrapper (or write letters on small stickers, and stick them on the bottom). The letters should be in pairs (a capital A written on two Kisses, capital B on two Kisses, etc.).

Arrange the Hershey Kisses on a table or clean floor space. Put out about 5-10 pairs of letters at a time.

Children take turns lifting two Kisses and looking at the bottom. If the letters match, they keep those Kisses. If they do not match, they have to put them back. At the end of the game, place all of the Kisses in the middle of the table, and allow children to choose 3-4 pieces to eat.

This game can be used to practice matching uppercase to uppercase letters, lowercase to lowercase, or uppercase to lowercase, depending on the skill level of the children.

## Category Collage

Create a collage using old newspapers and magazines. This will be a "Category Collage," meaning that all the pictures on the collage will fit into the same category.

Provide the children with magazines, newspapers, or other old pictures. Provide scissors, paper, and glue.

Give the children the category to look for: food. For example, "Find pictures of different kinds of foods for your collage." Provide a place for children to put pictures that do not fit into the food category. For example, "Glue all the food pictures to your collage. Put the pictures that are not food here in this basket."

Give the children plenty of time to look through the magazines. Discuss which pictures fit with the theme of the collage and which ones do not. If possible, make several collages of different types of food (one of vegetables, one of candy, etc.) and help the children compare them.

Consider laminating collages or covering in contact paper to make placemats.

## Alphabet Soup

For this activity, you will need a variety of letters. Use magnetic plastic letters, foam, or other toy letters. Or, you can cut letters out on pieces of paper or cardboard.

Tell the children they are going to help make some alphabet soup. With the children watching, put all the letters slowly to a large pot or bowl. Mix the pot with a ladle.

Allow the children to take turns fishing letters out of the pot. Have the child use only the ladle to scoop a letter out of the pot (allow the child to use their hands if they have difficulty). As each letter is scooped out of the soup, identify it with the children.

Consider multiples of the same letter so children can categorize them (all the A's together, all the B's together, etc.). Continue as time and interest allow.

## Pancake Toss Game

Use sturdy brown cardboard to make "pancakes," by cutting out circles. Write a letter of the alphabet on each pancake, perhaps in dark brown paint to create the appearance of syrup.

Tell the children they are going to help cook some alphabet pancakes. Across the play area, place a skillet or frying pan on the floor. Allow the children to throw the pancakes (like a Frisbee) from a distance, trying to land the pancakes in the pan. Make sure each child gets a turn.

Allow each child to throw 2-3 pancakes. Highlight the letter on each one before they throw it. For example, "It is Johnny's turn. Look, Johnny, your pancake has the letter R on it! Try to throw the pancake in the pan."

Play as long as time an interest allow.

When the children are done "cooking" the pancakes by throwing them in the pan, once the game is over, have the children convene as a group. Lay the circles side by side in rows, spelling out the alphabet, or display them on a board. Sing the alphabet song with the children and highlight each letter.

### Materials Needed Today

You will need

1. A frying pan or skillet; cardboard circles
2. Post-it notes or pieces of paper with tape, cut to look like apples (or another food)
3. Large pot or bowl; ladle; letters
4. Hershey Kisses; magic marker (stick-on labels optional)
5. Old magazines, newspapers; paper; scissors; glue; contact paper

## Post-it Note Game

For this activity, you will need Post-it Notes, or other pieces of paper to stick on items in the room. Help the children practice identifying items in common categories.

Cut the notes in the shape of an apple (or other recognizable food). Give Post-it notes to the children. Choose a category (based on items in the room). Then have the children tag all the items in that category by sticking an apple on them.

For example, "Let's put an apple on all the chairs in the room." Then children must go around the room, identify the items that fit into that category, and mark all the chairs by sticking a note on them.

Then, choose another category and have the children move the notes. Children can put sticky notes on all the bookshelves, blocks, art supplies, or other items. Practice several times (use the same notes over again).

### Things to Do at Morning Circle Time:

- Acknowledge the day of the week, date, and weather
- Sing songs, Recite Rhymes
- Read a story
- Acknowledge "Who is here today?"; Help the children introduce themselves and others

### Circle Time Activity

#### Muffin Song

Five little muffins in the bakery shop,  
The kind with the honey and the nuts on top,  
Along came a girl with a penny to spare,  
And she took a muffin and she ran out of there!  
Four little muffins... *(repeat the song for 4, 3, 2, 1 and no muffins)*

*To end, when there are no muffins left:*

Along came a girl with a penny to spare, and she said, "I'll have a bagel!"

## **Word Recognition**

### **Early Learning Content Standards**

God will protect us.

God is our strength.

God can do mighty things.

## **Game**

Help the children remember some of God's laws with this game.

Have the children all sit in a circle facing one another. Roll a ball to one of the children. When they catch the ball, they must say one thing they can do that is pleasing to God. Answers may include being nice to others, sharing, telling the truth, or not hitting. The child with the ball then rolls it to someone else in the circle.

Every time a child catches the ball, they must share an answer. Be sure every child gets a turn. Continue as long as time and interest allow.

## **Memory Verse**

Share the weekly verse with the children. Repeat it many times, and help children to repeat after you.

Verse: Psalm 119:11

"I will hide God's Word in my heart."

## **Story**

### **God Gives the Ten Commandments**

Read the story of the Ten Commandments (based on Exodus 16-17, 19-40) to the children. Use a children's Bible with pictures. Include props, role play, or other strategies to engage the children's interest.

Discuss the story with the children and ask questions as interest and time allows.

**\*\*\* A suggested Bible is *The Jesus Storybook: Every Story Whispers His Name*. Look for the story called "Ten Ways to Be Perfect."**

## **Art**

Make a "God's Mountain" picture to remind the children of the story. Give each child a blue piece of paper. Help them glue a purple triangle on the page (representing Mt. Sinai). Provide the children with white paint and cotton balls. Help the children dip the cotton balls in the paint and make clouds over the mountain.

Remind the children of how Moses went up the mountain to talk to God.