

Shapes Make Letters

The ability to identify letters of the alphabet before entering grade one is a good predictor of your child's future success as a reader.

Reading and writing go together. Children often teach themselves to read by trying to write. It helps them focus on the sounds and the letters.

Children need to have strong muscles in their hands and shoulders to be able to write well.

Cutting with scissors (supervised) and playing with play-dough strengthens hand muscles. Swimming or climbing on play structures strengthens arm muscles.



Give children lots of opportunities to “write” at home.

How can you help?

Create lots of opportunities for your child to write at home.

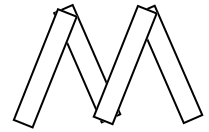
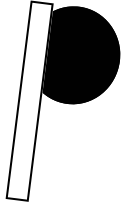
- Keep scrap paper, little notebooks, blank cards, fancy pieces of paper and pencils and crayons available so that your children can write any time.
- Show your children the different shapes found in letters; a stick and a circle make lots of different letters.
- Make a game of finding and pointing out the first letter of your child's name in their favourite story.
- Spread a layer of shaving cream on a plate or a plastic table top and draw the letters of your children's names in the cream. Let your children practice drawing letters in the cream.

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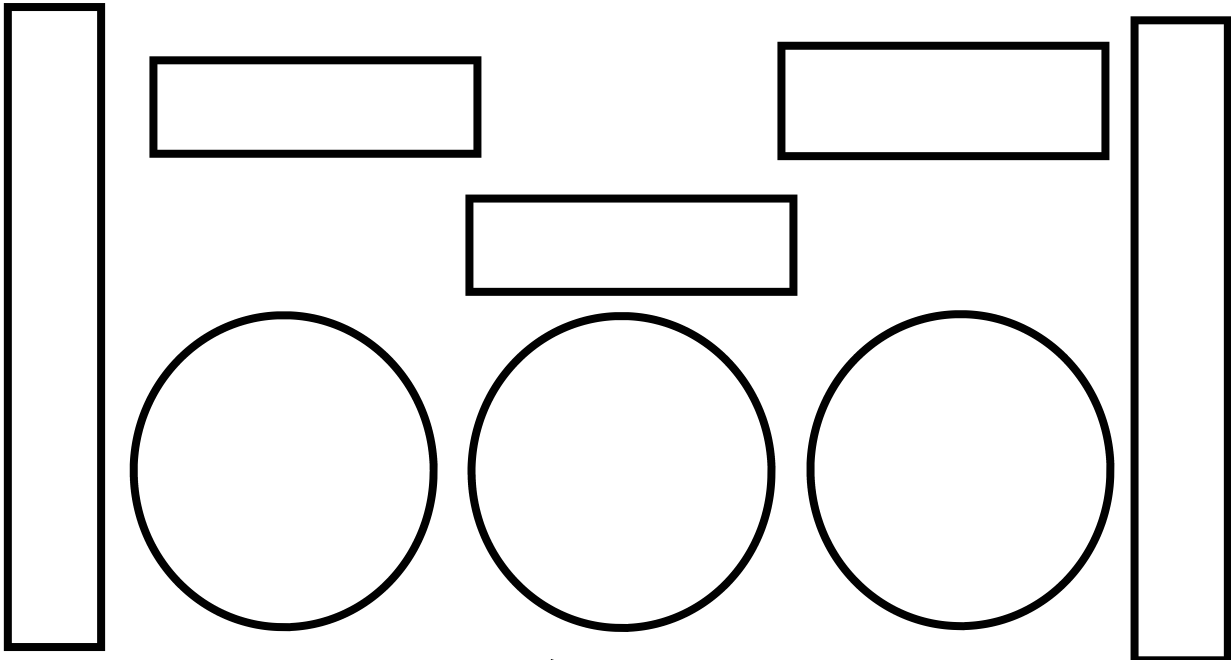
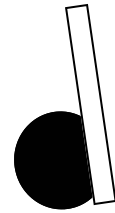
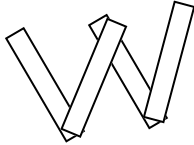


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- Cut the shapes out.
- Paste the shapes to make letters, on a piece of paper.
- How many letters can you make?



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