



Community Liaison Guide

Alphabet

Set-up – The stations will need to be setup before families arrive. Make sure all supplies are present. Cut out and hide the letters for the Letter Search station before the event. Create the ABC Hop Cards by cutting and pasting onto sturdy paper, or tape to the floor.

Arrival – (5 min) As families arrive, put coats and gear away, sign-in, join the circle. Encourage everyone to dance and sing as they enter.

Welcome! – (5 min) Sing Welcome Song as families come in and get settled into a circle.

Story Time – (20 min) The Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida alphabets are very different from English. Show some of the alphabet cards. Invite community members who speak each language (if possible) to come and share the sounds. Talk about the letter shapes – curvy, straight, etc. Have children move their bodies like the letters.

Activity – for beginning sound practice, have children stand when they hear the letter their name starts with. Add movement. (i.e. “If your name starts with a B, hop on one foot”)

Stations – (45 min)

1. Playdough letters
 - a. Make playdough from the recipe in the Family Kits, or use pre-made playdough. Have letters available for children to reference. Encourage older children to make letters in their name. Toddlers and infants can explore through touch and play.
2. Alphabet Sensory
 - a. Use a large plastic bin or sensory table to place items from kit. Children and families can find letters hidden here. Encourage connections with beginning letter sounds and letters they find (example: You found a “B”. Can you find something that starts with the /b/ sound?)
3. My Name Is
 - a. Name writing activity for 3 years and older. Encourage children to write their Tlingit name if they have one. If they are inventing spelling, this is ok, just model the correct spelling for them on another sheet of paper (unless they want you to put it on theirs).
4. Letter Hop/ Search
 - a. Using the letter cards provided, tape them to the floor (to prevent slipping). If your group is older and you want to challenge them, the letters can be out of order. Have them say the letter out loud, if they know it.
 - b. Hide the smaller Tlingit alphabet letters all around. Discussions of sharing can happen here. Have a few extra letters handy to give to children if there is an argument.

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Cleanup – (10 min) Everyone helps! Sing a clean-up song.

Departure – (5 min) Gather for goodbye song, sing as families get ready to go, drum them out the door.
