

TODDLER & PRESCHOOL EXPLORERS

16 TO 36 MONTHS

MY INITIAL: SPRINKLE DRAWING

MATERIALS:

- PIECE OF PAPER
- MARKER
- GALLON ZIPLOC BAG
- RAINBOW SPRINKLES (ENOUGH TO FILL A SINGLE, SOLID LAYER IN THE BAG WHEN LAYED FLAT ON A SURFACE)

OBJECTIVES:

- SENSORY EXPLORATION: TOUCH, TEXTURE
- COLOR RECOGNITION
- LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
- TACTILE PLAY
- LETTER RECOGNITION, EARLY PHONETIC AWARENESS
- EARLY NAME RECOGNITION

INSTRUCTIONS:

ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS TO A CHILD LEARNING TO RECOGNIZE, READ, AND WRITE THEIR OWN NAME COMES WITH THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE THEIR FIRST INITIAL AND RELATE IT TO THEIR FIRST NAME. OFTEN, WHEN CHILDREN BEGIN TO BECOME AWARE OF THEIR NAME AND ITS SPELLING, THEY WILL POINT OUT THEIR FIRST INITIAL, EVEN WHEN IT'S ALONE OR IN ANOTHER WORD AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE "THAT'S MY NAME!" SO FOR THIS ACTIVITY, WE ARE GOING TO EXPLORE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST INITIAL, THE SOUND IT MAKES, AND SOME PRE-WRITING SKILLS TO PREP THEM FOR THE NEXT STEP OF THEIR LEARNING JOURNEY!

- USE THE MARKER TO WRITE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST INITIAL (CAPITAL), DARK AND LARGE ON THE PIECE OF PAPER. IF YOU PREFER TO PRINT IT FROM THE COMPUTER, THAT WILL WORK AS WELL.
- SLIDE THE PIECE OF PAPER FLAT INTO THE GALLON BAG, SO YOU CAN READ THE LETTER THROUGH THE BAG.
- ADD SPRINKLES TO THE BAG, TO COMPLETELY COVER THE PAPER AND CREATE A SOLID (BUT MOVEABLE) LAYER OF SPRINKLES ON TOP. SEAL THE BAG AND LAY IT FLAT ON TABLE, LETTER FACING UP, WITH SPRINKLES ON TOP.
- SHOW YOUR CHILD THEIR NAME. SAY "THIS IS YOUR NAME. ADAM (YOUR CHILD'S NAME). A-A-ADAM." AND THEN SHOW THEM THEIR FIRST INITIAL "YOUR NAME STARTS WITH AN A. THIS IS THE LETTER A. FOR ADAM."
- SHOW YOUR CHILD THERE IS AN A UNDER THE SPRINKLES BE GENTLE PUSHING THE SPRINKLES ASIDE TO UNCOVER THE LETTER A IN THE BAG.
- RECOVER THE LETTER BY GENTLE SHAKING THE SPRINKLES. ASK YOUR CHILD IF THEY CAN FIND THE LETTER A (OR WHATEVER THEIR INITIAL IS).
- ONCE THEY PRACTICE UNCOVERING IT COMPLETELY, MOVE ONTO TRACING THE A IN THE BAG. YOUR CHILD CAN USE THEIR FINGER TO WRITE THEIR INITIAL IN THE SPRINKLES.
- AS THEY PLAY WITH THE SPRINKLES AND COVER AND UNCOVER THEIR INITIAL, TALK ABOUT THE SOUND THAT IT MAKES AND RELATE IT BACK TO THEIR NAME.

We'd love to see photos of your at home learning! Tag us on Facebook and Instagram with hashtag #MinnielandAtHome

