



## Take a look at more letter fun with toddlers

### Letter-Shaped Stamps

Ms. Amy, the center's early interventionist, gathers four two-year-olds together at a table. She puts out stamp pads and stamps of various shapes, including letters. She shows the children how to move with care from the stamp pad to the paper. Next, she shows the toddlers what happens when the stamp is pressed onto paper. While they are playing with the stamps, Ms. Amy keeps up a running conversation with the children. She talks about what they are doing, what color ink they are using, and what shapes their stamps are. As children reach for the letter stamps, Ms. Amy points out which letters start each child's name. She shows them how to stamp their names with the individual letters.



### Alphabet Pop Beads

Maurice, who is 30 months old, loves his home visitor Ella's interlocking alphabet beads. He has gotten better and better at snapping them together and pulling them apart. "Look at that, Maurice," his mom says. "That string of beads is almost as tall as you are!" Maurice laughs. "What's it say?" he asks. Maurice knows that letters make words, but he does not know what words his beads have made. "Well, it doesn't really say words," Ella explains, "because letters have to be in a special order to say something. Let's hear what this sounds like. Maybe your mom should help me with this one." They both laugh as Ella and Maurice's mom try to translate the long line of letters into a nonsense word. Maurice says, "Let's say, 'Maurice and Mommy and Ella like beads.' Would that take a lot of beads?" "Let's try it," Ella says.



### ABC Cookie Cutters

Randi, a toddler with visual impairment, likes playing with play dough with her home visitor Deon. Today Deon comes in with a set of alphabet cookie cutters. "Those are neat," Randi's mom says. "Here, Randi, let's roll out your play dough so we can try them." Deon gives Randi an R. "Feel the lines and curves on that letter, Randi? That's R, like in your name. R for Rrrrandi." He stresses the sounds to make them distinct. "I can make one," Randi says. She allows her mom to guide her hands placing the cookie cutter onto a circle of play dough. "Okay, press down," her mom says.

"You made an R!" Deon exclaims. "Feel how your letter has the same shape as the plastic one?" Her mom helps guide her hands to compare the letters. "I made R," Randi says proudly.

