

# ABC Wooden Puzzle

## What should be included:

- Puzzle board and letters
- Bag (for the letters)
- Letter cards
- Bowl and Spoon
- Exercise ball
- Bean Bags
- Book- *How Many Beads*

## Play Plan:

To begin you can just let your child play with the puzzle. Once you feel like he/she is ready for directed play, take the letters and place them into the bag provided and try some of the following:

- **Puzzle Board**

- 1 Give your child the puzzle board and you take control of the letter bag. Have your child reach in the bag and pull out one letter at a time, have him/her name that letter and place it in the puzzle board. \*If your child already knows his/her upper-case letters, have him/her try to guess (just by its feel) what letter he/she has in their hand before they pull it out of the bag.
- 2 Once your child has all the letters in the puzzle board, you can lay out the cards with the lower-case letters on them. Then name a letter (not in any certain order) and have your child take the upper-case letter you named out of the puzzle board and place it on the lower-case letter card of the same letter. Continue this play until all the letters have been matched. \*If your child isn't familiar with the lower-case letters, place them in alphabetical order and then you can say the ABC's (pointing to each letter as you say it) each time to find the correct match to the upper-case letter you named. If your child is not really familiar with the letters in general, you can also call out the upper-case letters in alphabetical order and then match them to the lower-case letters in alphabetical order – saying the ABC's in order each time you make a match.
- 3 If your child is ready for more of a challenge, place all the upper-case letters back into the bag and have your child pull out one letter at a time, but this time have your child say the letter's name and the sound the letter makes before placing it in the puzzle board. Then to take the letters out and match them to the lower-case letter cards (as before), you say a word and your child takes out the upper-case letter with which that the word begins.

- **Alphabet Soup**

- ❑ Take all of the upper-case letters out of the puzzle board and lay them out in front of your child. Then have your child get the bowl provided and ask him/her to make you some alphabet soup, however, he/she can only put in the letters you name. Then name one letter at a time until you have several letters in the soup. \*If your child is not very familiar with the alphabet, line the upper-case letters up in alphabetical order, so that when you ask for a certain letter for your soup you can say the ABC's in order (pointing to each letter as you name it ) until you come to the letter you asked to be put in your soup. \*If your child is ready for more of a challenge, try naming 2-3 letters at one time for him/her to locate and put in the soup.
- ❑ You can also be the soup maker and have your child tell you what letters he/she would like in his/her soup. When your child names a letter he/she wants, you pick up a letter and then ask if this is (the letter they asked for) and if it is you can put it in the bowl, if it is the wrong letter have the child help you locate the correct letter. \*Sometimes pick up the wrong letter – your child will think this is funny 😊

- **Alphabet Order**

- ❑ Also let your child practice placing both the upper-case letters and the lower-case letters in alphabetical order (not using the puzzle board).
- ❑ You can place all the upper-case letters in the bowl and have your child remove the letters from the bowl in alphabetical order. \*As your child removes the letters from the bowl you can have him/her to place the letters in the puzzle board – especially if your child is not that familiar with the alphabet yet.

## **Book Activity:**

The book **How Many Beads** is a book about measuring and comparing. You can read through this book and enjoy using the beads to count and measure the different objects in the book.

## **Big Body Movement:**

- **Exercise Ball** – For the following activities use the exercise ball.  
**CAUTION: Please stay with your child when he/she is trying these activities because your child can easily be thrown from the ball and may get hurt!**
- ❑ **Hungry Hippo** – To begin this activity, you hold the ball while your child lays over the ball on his/her belly. Then help your child begin to rock back and

forth, so he/she can begin to push forward from the floor as his/her feet hit and rolling over the ball on his/her tummy until he/she can stop himself/herself with extended arms. Help your child keep his/her balance while practicing this rocking movement.

- o When you feel your child is ready, place the bean bags in front him/her, so when he/she rolls forward he/she can grab a bean bag and place it behind the ball (back by your child's feet. When your child is rolling forward to grab an item, have your child use one hand and then the other to grab it, as well as, alternating hands to reach behind the ball and place the bean bag by his/her feet. Continue this process until your child has all of the bean bags from in front of the ball placed behind the ball by his/her feet.
- o You name a particular color/number to pick up
- o Give 2 & 3 step directions - Example: pick up the red bag and then the blue bag or pick up the bags in this order (green, yellow, blue) placing each one behind you before you pick up the next color
- o Challenge: have your child lay over the ball on his/her **back** and try some of the above-mentioned activities.

📌 **Bumper Ball** – For this activity, you and your child both lay on your bellies (several feet apart) facing each other, with your arms and legs stretched out straight. Now try rolling the ball back and forth between you and your child pushing it with both hands (staying in this stretched out position). Try keeping your arms (including your elbows) from touching the floor while the ball is being pushed back and forth.

- o Count how many times you and your child can keep the ball going back and forth without losing control or resting your arms on the floor.
- o Try saying a letter of the alphabet each time you or your child pushes the ball to the other person and see if you can get all the way through the alphabet before you lose control of the ball or have to put your arms down on the floor.

These are just a few suggestions. A child learns best through play and hands on experiences, feel free to be CREATIVE and have FUN 😊!

