

# Cap Creations

Including hundreds of  
Literacy and Math games!

resource guide

*Start collecting bottle caps for your own youngsters now!*

What's Inside:

- An overview of the Caps Program
- What goes in a "cap kit"
- Hundreds of game ideas to play with your children or students
- Literacy and Math ideas
- Links to other resources



# An overview of your Cap Kit

Now that you have your cap kit, you have unlimited possibilities with a sustainable, hands-on, and authentic learning tool. Your students will benefit from the differentiated, engaging, and play-based activities that all can be created using bottle caps.

Each kit includes both an alphabet set and a numerical set. There are 3 of each vowel and more popular letters, and 2 of every other letter. We also have included 20 blank caps so you can create other needed caps at your discretion. Here is a breakdown of the cap kit: Note- all kits include 20 blank caps unless supplies were too short

## Please Note:

This resource guide aims to provide parents and teachers with a broad spectrum of ideas and ways to use the bottle caps to promote learning. While it is by no means a complete list of every activity possible, the goal is to give you a starting point and basic activities to get the creative juices flowing. The possibilities truly are endless with the amount of activities you can do! From math to literature, art to science, bottle caps can be used for almost anything to help your child learn in an authentic manner.



hands-on learning

If 3: 1 Uppercase, 2 Lowercase,

If 2: 1 Uppercase, 1 Lowercase

[3 letters each]:

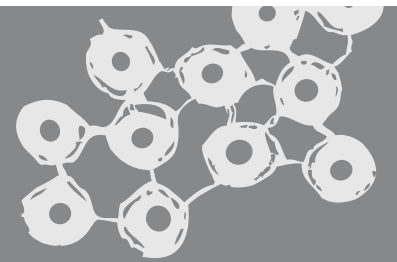
E, T, A, O, I, N, S, H, R, D, L, U

[2 letters each]:

C, M, F, G, Y, P, W,

B, V, K, X, J, Q, Z

# Math



Either find coin stickers and place on caps or simply just allow children to draw their own imaginary coins. If they want, they can even just use plain caps as they are and let their imaginations wonder!



Dice/Numeral Matching

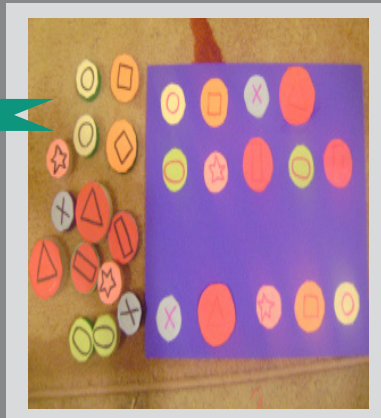
## Pretend Money/Imaginative Play

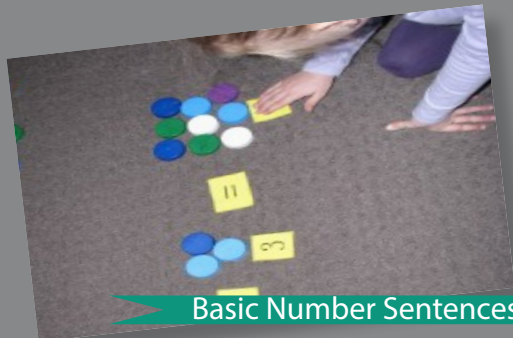


Using an egg carton or something similar, have students match dice numbers to numerals.

## Shape Matching

Using stickers or hand-drawn caps, create a game board so students have to match the correct shape on the cap to the same shape on the game board





## Basic Number Sentences

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Bottle caps can be used as a problem-solving tool when learning basic number sentences. For even more ideas, visit: <http://www.learning4kids.net/2011/09/09/play-learn-with-bottle-tops/>



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Make your own homemade number stamps using bottle tops and foam number shapes. Let them create their own stamp/math problems

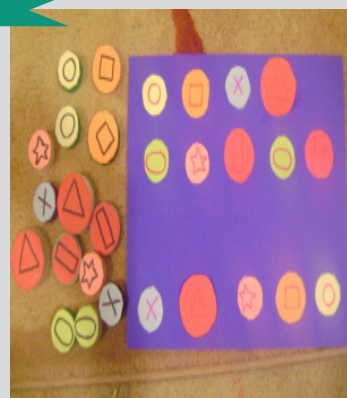


## Number Stamps

## Alphabet Match

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Alphabet match is a fun hands-on activity for kids to help recognize and learn their alphabet letters. It is also a great opportunity to introduce upper case and lower case letters and match them in a fun puzzle-like activity. Simply trace your caps on a piece of poster board, write the lowercase of each letter in order on the circles, and have your students match up the letters! Other Ideas: -Cover only the letters that have a tail, i.e. g,j,p, and q  
-Cover only letters that are in your name  
-Make a pattern and cover every second or third letter



## Sorting

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Have students sort colors. Allow them to choose the grouping if they want. You would not BELIEVE how creative kids can be with their grouping!

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Place caps in order from smallest/largest or largest/smallest

## Sequencing





# Literacy

Write in permanent marker the child's name on caps and place in container of water. Have them "fish out" the letters and place on reference card to spell their name. As they get more advanced, you can try taking away the reference card



Name Soup

## Word Building Activities

### Alphabet Practice

Take your alphabet caps and ask your child to arrange them in the order of the alphabet song, spreading them in a line on the floor or tabletop.

### Letter Recognition

The patterns ABAB and ABCABC are good starting points. Lay out two symbol caps: a heart and a star, for example. Ask your child to place the symbol they think would come next in the sequence

Place all your alphabet caps in a bag and shake them up. Ask your child to draw one cap out of the bag and read the letter out loud. Then she has to think of something that starts with that letter. Allow for phonetic spellings, for example if she says, "phone" for the letter "f".

### Patterning

### Fun with Vowels

Introduce the vowels to your class and identify their short vowel sounds. Choose two consonants and place them on a table, leaving enough space between the two letters to place a third letter. Challenge students to create words by placing different vowels in the space. Each time a student places a vowel in the space, ask her to sound out the new word. Did she

### Letter Switch

Use the letters to spell a CVC word such as "cat." Invite volunteers to take turns forming new words by replacing one letter with a new letter. (For example, replace the t in "cat" with a p to spell "cap," then replace the a with a u to spell "cup," and so on.) Keep a list and see how many new words students can make in this way.

### Word Families

Use the caps to display a word family ending your students are learning, such as -ig. Then, challenge students to add consonant caps to the beginning of the word to build words in that family, such as "big," "pig," "dig," and so on. Write each word student's build on chart paper or the board.



### Blends and Digraphs

When students are learning blends and digraphs, build a word with the caps, but leave out its beginning letters or ending letters. For example, you might display "\_\_\_oes" for "shoes." Then, give students clues one at a time, such as "I'm wearing two of these," and see how quickly they can guess the word and complete it. (Depending on your students' skills, you might want to display letter combinations for them to choose from, such as ch, sl, sh, and so on.)

# LITERACY

## Letter scramble

Use the letters to spell a long word, like “airplane.” Now, mix up these letters and see how many new words students can make using any of the letters from the word. Note: You might want to use words that correspond with themes or topics that you are currently studying. List the words on a classroom board or chart paper.

## Blends and Digraphs

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## Long Vowel Spell Patterns

Use the vowel caps to display spelling patterns for long vowel sounds, such as \_a\_e and \_ai\_ for long a. Then, say a word with that vowel sound, such as “rain.” Ask a volunteer to find the beginning and ending consonant caps and try them with both spelling patterns. Which one is the correct spelling? Repeat with other long a words such as “game,” “snail,” “shape,” and so on. Encourage students to copy the words into their journals, making two separate lists for the two different spelling patterns.

## Dictionary

Have students use the caps to build as many words as they can. Then, encourage them to arrange the words in alphabetical order and write them on paper or in a journal, adding a definition or a picture for each one.

## Literacy Activities



## Letter Sorting

Spread out the letters on a table. Then, have the children sort the letters alphabetically into a storage box.

## Alphabetical Order

Distribute one alphabet set (one each of 26 letters) among your students. Once everyone has one or more letters, challenge the children to arrange the letters in alphabetical order. For additional practice, have students each choose a letter, hold it up, and then line themselves up in alphabetical order.

## Find Missing Letter

Place one of each letter in sequential order on a storage box. Have children chant the alphabet or sing the alphabet song while you (or a volunteer) point to each letter. Then, direct them to look away while you remove and hide one or more letters. How quickly can children identify the missing letter(s)?

## Letters for Sale

Ask a volunteer to be the “letter seller” and have them sit on the floor with one set of letters in front of them. Encourage the other children to walk or skip in a circle around the letter seller as she chants/sings: “I’m selling letters, I’m selling letters, I’m selling letters! Which one do you choose?” The children stop on the word “choose” and the child in front of the letter seller says, “I’d like the letter \_\_\_, please.” The letter seller then hands the buyer the letter they asked for. Continue until the letter seller is sold out!

## Letter Match

Invite children to find other letters that look exactly the same as a letter in their name (e.g., place a m on the table and have the child find all the ones that look like it). They don’t need to know the letter name.

## Alphabet Literacy Activities

# LITERACY

## Alphabet Silly Soup

Ask each student to pick four letters. Invite them to make a bowl of alphabet silly soup using each of their letters. To make a bowl of silly soup, students must think of ingredients to put in their soup that start with the letters they have chosen. Remember—the sillier the ingredients, the better! Doesn't a bowl of delicious elephant soup with feet, grass, and milk sound good?

## Making Names

Making Names: A child's name is the most important word. Have children make their names several times, mixing up the letters, making their names and checking them with their names written on a card.

## Alphabet Zoo

Tell the class that you are going to create an alphabet zoo and that you need their help. Ask students to choose one letter each and then draw a picture of an animal that starts with the letter they chose. Encourage children to use their imagination to create and name their own make-believe animals. Display their animals on a board, using the appropriate letter caps to hold each animal in place.



## Name Game

Have children make names of friends or family. Have them make the name, mix the letters, and make the names several times.

## Letter Match

Invite children to find other letters that look exactly the same as a letter in their name (e.g., place a m on the table and have the child find all the ones that look like it). They don't need to know the letter name.

## Alphabet Train

Have your child put the lowercase letters in the order of the alphabet. Then they can point to them and sing the alphabet song. Have them repeat the process with uppercase letters.

## Magazine Match

Look through a magazine or newspaper with children, cutting out some large print simple words (such as man, box, boy). Glue them on a sheet of paper with plenty of space below each. Have children make each word below the prin-

## Hands-on, Interactive, Memorable

## Consonant/Vowel Sort

Have children sort the consonant letters and the vowel letters.

## Feature Sort

Have children sort letters in a variety of ways - e.g., letters with long sticks and letters with short sticks, letters with circles and letters with no circles, letters with tunnels and letters with dots, letters with slanted sticks and letters with straight sticks.

## Find the Letter

Make a set of alphabet letters, upper- or lowercase, on a set of index cards. Shuffle the "deck" and take turns drawing a card and finding the cap letter it corresponds to

## Mixing Food Sort

Make some words that identify food - e.g., bun, corn, rice. Have children draw pictures of each, mix the letters, and make the words again.

# Literacy

## Letter in the Circle

### Letter Chains

Make a five-letter chain (for example, pfrmo). Have children find the same letters and make the same chain below your model. Then have the children make a chain that you copy.

Draw two circles and place an h in one and an o in the other. Have children put letters in the h circle and say how they are like the h. Do the same with the o. This activity will help children learn to look at features of letters. Vary the letters in the circles; accept their explanations about what they are noticing.

### Simple Spelling

Give students their "sight words" or spelling words for the week on a sheet of paper. Have them do their spelling list with the bottle caps!

### Oreo Words

Have students make "oreo words" with their bottle caps- For instance, write the word "my" on one bottle cap. Then the children have to break it apart into its two single components "m" and "y" underneath.

### Letter Bingo

Make two cards with a grid of three boxes across and three down. Trace one lowercase letter in each box. Put a pile of cap letters that are representing the letters on the cards and some that are not in a plastic bowl. Play a Letter Bingo game. Take turns taking a letter, saying its name, and then placing the letter in the box if there is a match. If there is no match, put the letter back in the bowl. The first to fill three boxes across, down, or diagonally says, "Bingo" and wins the game. Play the same game with upper case letters.

# Thank you for your interest in CAPS!

While this is by no means an exhaustive list of all the resources available, it is intended to get your ideas rolling and see how you can apply it to your own classroom or home!



hands-on learning

For even more resources, make sure to check out our website @ [www.thecapcreations.wix.com/capcreations](http://www.thecapcreations.wix.com/capcreations)