

LETTER CRAYONS

WORD BUILDING CENTER

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Develops Skills In

- Identifying beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- Building simple words
- Vocabulary development
- Letter-sound correspondence

What's Included

- 4 crayon boxes
- 32 letter crayons
- 24 picture/word cards

About the Word Building Center

Building simple words has never been so fun! The crayon boxes, letter crayons, and picture/word cards are color-coded into four sets—so up to four children can work at one time to build six different words each. And when they're done, students can exchange sets for more learning opportunities!

Using the Word Building Center

- Begin by sorting the crayon boxes, letter crayons, and activity cards by color—red, blue, green, and purple. Show a crayon box to the children and demonstrate how the crayons snap into place with the letters facing out.
- Next, select a picture card and ask children to identify the image.
- Then, build the word by selecting the beginning letter and snapping it into the first space of the crayon box. Continue until three letter crayons are snapped in the box to spell the complete word.
- Say the word aloud. Show children how they can check their work by flipping the picture card over to see the word.

Talk About It

- As children explore the center, ask the following questions to engage their thinking:

- *I see a picture of a bug. The word "bug" begins with the /b/ sound. What letter makes the /b/ sound? Can you think of some other words that begin with the letter B?*
- *Great—you made the word "pig"! Can you think of other words that have the same ending sound as "pig"?*
- *I built the word "rug." What word will I make if I change the R to an M? Can you think of some other new words we can make?*

Build On Their Learning

- Arrange a set of eight color-coded crayons in front of a child. Say a three-letter word aloud, then ask the child to use the crayons to build the word. Next, try a word that isn't featured on one of the cards—just make sure you have all the letters needed to build it.
- Give a child two or more complete sets of color-coded crayons. Invite the child to build as many three-letter words as she can. For an extra challenge, see how many four-letter words she can build!