

## Letter Wall Ideas

The primary function of a letter wall is to help children learn letter names, shapes, and sounds. The letter wall is also used to house new vocabulary words including nouns, verbs, and adjectives that are taught within lessons and activities. Additionally, the letter wall can support you as you introduce math, science, social studies, and social-emotional vocabulary.

### What does a letter wall look like?

- at child's eye level
- preferably two rows A-M and N-Z
- each letter has a picture to the right of the word
- space for at least five words below each letter
- 8-9 inches between letters for longer words
- darker background color
- words written neatly in a dark color on sentence strips
- has same color writing and sentence strips through the year
- first letter of each word under the "title" letter
- pictures **after** words so print is tracked from left to right
- only capitalize first letters of proper nouns (e.g. names)

### Suggestions for using the letter wall in the first few months of school:

#### August

- letter wall frame is set up according to above suggestions (without words)
- explicitly teach its purpose and how it will be used using the lessons [Introducing Children to the Letter Wall](#) and [Alphabet Discussion](#)
- begin having children interact by pointing/touching letters
- sing alphabet songs slowly while pointing to each letter
- have children help put names of students, teachers, and school helpers on the wall (3-5 each day)

#### September

- add names of thematic words and storybook characters
- use vocabulary such as straight lines, curved lines, short lines, long lines, slant lines, to describe the letters (see the lessons [Skywriting—Lines](#) and [Skywriting—Curves and Circles](#))
- discuss focus/featured letters and add words that begin with that letter using the formation language in the [Letter Introduction Routine](#) lessons (see the *CIRCLE Pre-K Curriculum* for a research-based letter sequence)
- discuss distinguishing characteristics of letters
- begin comparing long and short words
- add new words daily, as they are taught
- begin playing letter wall games, giving children clues about words or letters and have children find them

#### October and beyond

- continue discussing features and formations of letters
- continue adding thematic and other vocabulary words
- continue adding words that start with the focus/featured letter
- add new words daily, as they are taught
- continue playing letter wall games