Letter Sort / Discovery of Similarities and Differences

Materials: Assorted magnetic letters

Magnetic surface like a cookie sheet

Word cards that have names of students and simple words to use as guides

Guide: Explain that they will be using magnetic letters to learn a lot about letters.

Place a variety of letters on a magnetic board or cookie sheet and ask what they notice about them.

“They are different colors.”

“Some are big and some are little.”

“Some letters look the same.”

Show and sort letters by similarities; circles with sticks, straight lines, curved lines, etc.

Talk about how each letter has a name and represents sounds - they will be learning letter names and the sounds, too.

Show them that they can put letters together to make words. (Make sure you demonstrate placing letters in order from left to right – in sequence – as you make words.)

Demonstrate by make some of the names of students in the class and some simple words.

Explain that they will have time to play with the letters.

They can sort them, make words, match letters, or use them however they want.

Practice: Provide students with time to explore with the letters and making words. You may want to have a few cards they can use as models with words or names on them.