[**Magnetic Letter Games and Uses for Kids**](http://dontknowhowyadoit.blogspot.com/2009/01/magnetic-letter-games-and-uses-for-kids.html)

**25 Ways to Use Magnetic Letters At Home-**

1. **LETTER PLAY** Encourage children to play with the magnetic letters on the refridgerator or on a table. Playing with letters allows children to learn more about how they look. ***(TIP: Use metal cookie sheets for letter play. My kids can sit anywhere with the trays-it's great!)***
2. **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.

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

4. **NAME GAME** Have children make names of friends and/or family. Have them make the name, mix the letters, and make the names several times.

5. **MAKING WORDS** Make a simple word like mom or dad or sun and have your child make the same work by matching each letter below the model word.

6. **ALPHABET TRAIN** have your child put the magnetic letters in the order of the alphabet.

7. **CONSONANT/VOWEL SORT** Have children sort the consonant letters and the vowel letters.

8. **FEATURE SORT** Have children sort letters in a variety of ways - e.g. letters with long sticks and letter 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.

9. **COLOR SORT** Have children sort all the different colors of the letters.

10. **UPPERCASE/LOWERCASE MATCH** Have children match the uppercase letters with the lowercase form.

11. **WRITING LETTERS** Have children select ten different letters and write each letter on a paper. They can use the magnetic letter as a model.

12. **WRITING WORDS** Have children make five simple words (*dog, fun, big, hat, like, sit*) and then write the words on a sheet of paper.

13. **MAKING FOOD WORDS** 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.

14. **MAKING COLOR WORDS** Give children a list of color words with an item make in that color as a picture support (e.g. a *red ball*). Have children make the color word with the letters using the model, mix the letters, and make it again several times.

15. **MAKING NUMBER WORDS** Give children a list of numbers with the number word next to each. Have children make the word and mix the letters two or three times.

16. **LETTER NAMES** Specify a color and have children take one colored letter at a time and say the letter name.

17. **MAGAZINE MATCH** Look through a magazine or newspaper with children, cutting out some large print simple words. Glue them on a sheet of paper with plenty of space below each. Have children make each word below the printed one.

18. **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 magnetic letter that corresponds to it.

19. **LETTER IN THE CIRCLE** Draw two circles and place an *h* in one and *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* circle. This activity will help children learn to look at features of letters. vary the letters in the circles; accept the kids' explanations about what they are noticing.

20. **CHANGE THE WORD** Build several simple words and show the children how to change, add, or take away a letter to make a new word. Examples are: *me, he, we, my, at, hat, sat*. After the demonstration put the needed letters in a specail place in an empty container for them to practice.

21. **ALPHABET SEQUENCE** Place the letter *a* on the table and have the child find the next letter *(b)* and put it next to it. Continue through the alphabet.

22. **LETTER SORT** Place a pile of magnetic letters on the table or tray for the child to spread out. Have the child put all the letters that are the same together in a pile. Then, if age appropriate, have the child five the letter name for each pile.

23. **LETTER CHAINS** Make a five letter chain (e.g. *pfrmo*). Have children find the same letters and make the same chain below your model. Then have the children make a chain for you to copy.

24. **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 magnetic letters that are represented on the cards and some that are not in a bowl. Take turns taking a letter out of the bowl, say the letter and try to match to your card. The first person to fill three boxes in a row wins.

25. **RHYMING PAIRS** Make a simple three letter word such as *dog, bug, cat, fan, can, hot, man, net, pan, rat, sit* on the fridge, table or metal cookie sheet. Say the work and then say a second word that rhymes. See if the child can spell the rhyming word below the first word.

(reprinted from Gay Su Pinnell and Irene C. Fountas from Phonic Lessons 2003)