

#### Introduction

Before you can spell, you need to be able to identify letters. This knowledge is called letter recognition, and it's an important skill to get your child ready to read and write.

One way to teach these skills is by creating a name puzzle. This activity is all about strengthening letter recognition. Read on for instructions for this easy craft!

#### **Supplies**

- Cardstock or cardboard
- Pencils, markers, or crayons
- Scissors
- Feathers, beads, and other fun materials
- Puzzle Piece printout (pages 3-12 of these instructions)
- Magnets (optional)



#### Instructions

- 1. Create puzzle pieces: Use our puzzle piece print-outs starting on page three. Print this page and cut out pieces. You can also use the templates provided as inspiration to create your own puzzle pieces. Write out your child's name, one letter per puzzle piece.
- 2. Decorate your letters on your puzzle pieces: Adding sensory materials helps your child not only see, but feel the difference in letters. Use this time as an opportunity to talk about the individual letters in your child's name.

#### **Additional Resources**

Visit Plano Public Library's official YouTube channel to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at Plano Library Learns

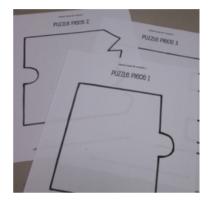
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#### Instructions, continued

- 3. Cut out the puzzle pieces: Help your child cut out the pieces to help develop their fine motor skills.
- 4. (Optional) Add magnets: Glue magnets to the back of your cards and keep them on the front of your fridge, dishwasher, or any magnetic surface.



Step 1: Print out puzzle pieces



Step 2: Decorate letters



Step 3: Cut out puzzle pieces

#### How to Use Your Name Puzzle

Start off by talking about the individual letters that make up your child's name. Ask questions, such as, "What sound does this letter make?" and "What other words begin with this letter?" Give your child plenty of time to answer, about 5 seconds, but help them out if they need it. Then, help your child put the puzzle pieces together. Talk about how the letters work to form their name. Finally, encourage your child to try putting the cards in order on their own. Keep practicing—they'll get the hang of it!

For further learning, you can also create more cards for different names and words.

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