

**BANISH BOREDOM! Interactive Instruction**

# Interactive

# **ALPHABET PLAY**

18 Activities to Teach the Names,  
Shapes, & Sounds of the Letters



**By Tamarie Tigh**

## Introduction

Believe it or not... learning the alphabet is a complex process.

Learning the letters means learning their names as well as ALL their shapes and sounds.

It means learning to RECOGNIZE the names, shapes, and sounds and to PRODUCE the names, shapes, and sounds – automatically.

AND...

To complicate matters, letters have different names and sounds in different languages.

So, someone coming from a different culture must learn the alphabet in English.

Some students learn quickly, while others need more time.

However, everyone can have FUN when participating in interactive play that teaches and reinforces the names, shapes, and sounds of the alphabet.

Banish Boredom! Interactive Alphabet Play is designed to make learning the alphabet an interactive and engaging process... for young learners as well as for English Second Language Learners.

Interactive Alphabet Play is copyrighted; however, permission is granted to copy the "Student Alphabet Page" and the "Instructor's Large Letter Cards" that are located at the back of this book.

(Using cardstock to make copies and laminating copies is recommended so that cards will last longer.)

Learning should be fun for everyone, leaders & learners!

So...

HAVE FUN learning the alphabet!

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# Alphabet Name Games

## Introduction

Teach students that each letter has a name, just as each person has a name.

Play games to learn the names of the letters in English.

### Alpha-Name Shout Out (Can be played virtually.)

- Materials: Instructor's Large Letter Cards
- Configuration: Community Circle
- Instructions:
  1. Hold up a letter card.
  2. Students will shout out the name of the letter as directed by instructor.
  3. Start showing cards slowly and gradually get faster and faster.
  4. To add fun, have students respond using different voices, such as baby voice, deep voice, whisper, etc.



# Alphabet Shape Play

## Introduction

Teach students that each letter has two printed shapes: upper case and lower case.

Play games to learn the shapes of the letters.

### Alpha-Shape Body Bender (Can be played virtually.)

- Materials: Instructor's Large Letter Cards
- Configuration: Open space
- Instructions:
  1. Show a letter card and say the name of the letter and if you want students to portray upper or lower case.
  2. Students try to bend their bodies into the shape of the letter.
  3. Encourage creativity, such as using the wall, table, chair, etc.
  4. Have students hold their poses so that the class can observe the different ideas.



# Alphabet Sound Activities



## Introduction

Teach students that each letter has a sound; some have more than one sound.

Play games to learn the sounds of the letters in English.

### Alpha-Sound Partner Pop Up (Can be played virtually as a class instead of partners.)

- Materials: Instructor's Large Letter Cards
- Configuration: Community Circle
- Instructions:
  1. Pair students with a partner.
  2. Hold up a letter card and make the sound of the letter.
  3. Students will make the letter sound while looking at their partner's mouth.
  4. The sound is made using different parts of the mouth: Lips, Tongue, Teeth, Air, and Voice. Say one of the possible sound-making parts.
  5. Student partners pop up if they think that part was used to make the letter sound.
  6. Example:
    - Instructor says, "M – mmmmmm"
    - Students say, "mmmmmm" while looking at partner's mouth.
    - Instructor says, "Teeth."
    - Students should NOT pop up.
    - Instructor says, "Lips."
    - Students should pop up.

Student Alphabet Page

**Aa Bb Cc Dd**  
**Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii**  
**Jj Kk Ll Mm**  
**Nn Oo Pp Qq**  
**Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv**  
**Ww Xx Yy Zz**

## About the Author



Do you have learners that find it difficult to sit still... or just can't stop talking?

That was me.

I'm Tamarie Tigh.

Although a good student, I easily got bored and could NOT sit still.

To this day, I'm always moving.

This reality has led me to get creative when instructing others. I don't want them to get bored... and I believe movement actually enhances learning.

Nearly 20 years working in the Literacy Department of the local Public Library and 10 years working as a Lead Trainer has given me much insight and allowed great scope for interactive instruction.

My experience has encompassed many realities...

- Teaching struggling adults to read
- Teaching children with learning challenges
- Teaching parents to prepare their children for school
- Working with English Second Language families
- Training and supervising staff and volunteers

AND...

- Writing for ABDO Publishing "Reading Is A Superpower!" Educational Resources
- Creating and administrating Award-winning Before & After School Programs
- Leading "Focus On Literacy" for the San Diego County Office of Education
- Making literacy-focused presentations throughout the United States
- Leading virtual, international trainings using a variety of platforms

ALL of these opportunities have culminated in my desire to share with others what I've developed through a series of instruction books filled with interactive instruction.

Banish Boredom! Interactive Instruction is my mission and my passion.

If my work can help even 1 person to have a better learning experience... then it is worth the effort.

Remember - Learning should be fun for everyone!