



Kindergarten Readiness

Home Activity Series

January 2021 Activities

Activity 1: Penguin Lacing Card

Using lacing cards is very similar to sewing. Lacing your penguin can be done in two ways (see the illustration on the right side of this page). Doing both adds variety and challenge to this activity!

Directions:

1. Parents: Remove the yarn lace from the penguin card. Show your child the stiffened ends (called aglets) on both ends of the lace. These will be like the “needle” when they “sew” their cards. Demonstrate how to grasp the aglet between the tip of your thumb and index finger and push it through one of the holes in the front of the card. Pull the lace so that only about a quarter of it remains dangling from the front of the hole. Now let your child grasp the aglet in the same way.
2. At this point, your child can proceed in either of two ways:
 - a. They can push the aglet up from the BACK of the card, then down into the next hole from the FRONT of the card, then up through the next hole from the BACK of the card and so on. Help your child pull the lace so it lies flat against the card after each “stitch,” which will keep the remaining length of the lace free to continue “sewing”. Be sure to praise your child when they make it all the way around the edge of card. Then show your child how to undo the sewing by gently pulling loose EACH “stitch,” one at a time. If you continue pulling on one end of the lace until the entire length comes out, it’s likely the card will tear.
 - b. They can wrap the lace around the outside edge of the card and push the aglet into the next hole from the TOP of the card, then wrap the lace around the edge again and proceed in the same way, always pushing the aglet through from the TOP of the card. Again, be sure to praise your child when they make it all the way around.

Why We Do This:

Using lacing cards helps develop the eye-hand coordination and fine motor skills that will be needed for writing and many other tasks that require finger dexterity.



Activity 2: Uppercase and Lowercase Letters A to M

Materials needed: Pencil

Directions:

1. With your child, look at the “Uppercase and Lowercase Letters A to M” worksheet (the N through Z worksheet will be in next month’s packet). Point to the capital letters on the left side of each mitten and ask your child to name each letter. If they do not recognize each one, that is okay – this is a learning opportunity! Explain to your child that each letter of the alphabet is written in two ways. There are uppercase letters and lowercase letters. Sometimes the two kinds of letters look very much alike and sometimes they don’t. Uppercase letters are usually at the front of name words, such as your child’s own first and last name.
2. Tell your child to draw a line with the pencil from each uppercase letter to its matching lowercase letter. If you have to show your child which letter is the match, that’s fine. If naming and matching these letters is a challenge for your child, you may want to duplicate this sheet and have them practice this multiple times until it becomes easier. This worksheet can be reprinted by going to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten. Go to January 2021 activities and click the **Letters Worksheet** button.
3. A pencil, rather than a marker or a crayon, is the ideal tool for this practice. Be sure your child is holding the pencil correctly as they write. This is the time to begin working on helping your child use the correct hand position for holding a writing tool. Visit www.smfpl.org/kindergarten for a helpful video.

Why We Do This:

Children entering kindergarten will be expected to know the letters of the alphabet and to be able to write their first and last names with a capitalized first letter and then remaining lowercase letters.



Activity 3: Winter Patterns

Materials needed: Scissors, gluestick, crayons

Directions:

1. Point out the row of dotted-line boxes at the bottom of the page. Show your child how to hold the scissors with the thumb up and in the smallest hole, and the other fingers in the larger hole. Use an open-shut motion between the thumb and fingers as you cut. Go www.smfpl.org/kindergarten to watch our video on using scissors. Have your child cut between the solid line of the bottom row of pictures and the dotted lines at the top of the boxes, so that the bottom of the worksheet is cut free as a strip. Now have your child cut along the dotted lines around the outside edges. Then your child can cut the five picture boxes apart. Some children will try to cut the paper while it is lying flat on the work surface, but that makes it much harder. Help them practice holding the paper up in their non-dominant hand while cutting with the scissors in their dominant hand and tracking the movement of the scissors and paper with their eyes. If your child makes a mistake cutting this worksheet and would like to try again, this worksheet can be reprinted by going to www.smfpl.org/kindergarten. Go to January 2021 activities and click the **Winter Patterns Worksheet** button.
2. Now look at the picture pattern in the first row on the worksheet. Point to each item in turn and say its name aloud: “snowflake, hat, snowflake, hat, snowflake, hat.” Then ask your child, “What should come next?” (It’s the snowflake.) Have your child find the snowflake picture and glue it in place in the row. Remind them that it is easier to apply glue to the spot where the picture will be placed rather than to the back of the picture.
3. Complete the rest of the worksheet in the same manner, then encourage your child to color the pictures.

Why We Do This:

- Being able to use scissors is an important skill. Teachers have noticed that some kindergarteners begin school with little or no experience in cutting with scissors.
- Holding the paper with one hand and applying glue with the other is a pre-writing skill. Gluing the pieces in place develops hand-eye coordination.
- Being able to recognize and duplicate a pattern is a basic math skill.

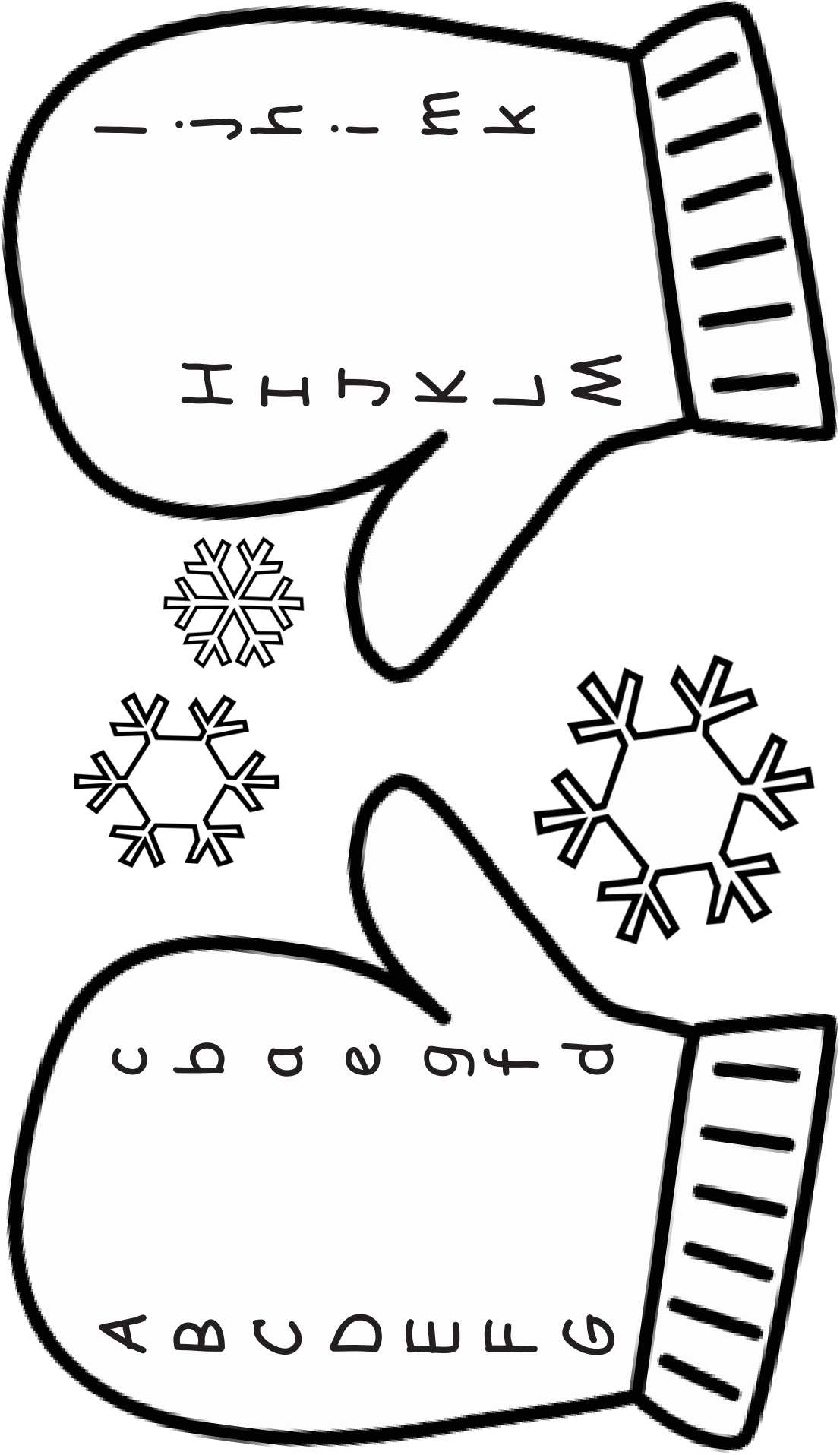
Visit www.smfpl.org/kindergarten
every month for additional stories, songs, and video tips.

Name _____

Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

A to M

Draw a line from the uppercase letters to the lowercase letters.



Name _____



Winter Patterns

Cut and paste to finish each pattern. Color.

