



Spelling with Nature

What Can You Find?

Beginner: Go for a walk and collect natural items. Talk about the name of each item you pick up.

[Tip]: Lay the natural items on the ground in the shape of the first letter of the child's name.

Intermediate: Go for a walk and collect natural items. Lay out the items on the ground in the shape of each letter of their name.

[Tip]: Using items like rocks and sticks, model the letters and have your child copy you.

Experienced: Go for a walk and collect natural items. Have your child lay the items out to spell their name or other sight words.

[Tip]: Check out our [Sight Words](#) resource for some ideas!

Why is this important? Physically manipulating objects to form letters and words activates whole brain learning, improves recall skills, and contributes to reading skills.

References: Emyus, A. Z., Degeng, I. N. S., Setyosari, P., & Ulfa, S. (2020). The Influence of Whole Brain Teaching (WBT) to the Motoric and Linguistic Skills of Preschoolers. *International Journal of Instruction*, 13(4), 799–814.

Suggate, S., Pufke, E., & Stoeger, H. (2019). Children's fine motor skills in kindergarten predict reading in grade 1. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 47, 248–258. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecresq.2018.12.015>