English Alphabet Magnets



Activity suggestion: Alphabet Treasure Hunt

A playful, collaborative activity that invites tamariki to explore letters through movement, discovery and connections to familiar names.

What you need

- NZTC alphabet magnets.
- A magnetic board positioned within tamariki reach.
- Small baskets for collecting letters.
- Optional: cards with printed tamariki names.

Setting up and playing

➤ Hide NZTC alphabet magnets around a clearly defined play space, making some easy to spot and others more challenging. Place them at accessible heights so all tamariki can participate.

➤ Invite tamariki to search for the NZTC alphabet magnets and bring their discoveries to the magnetic board.

➤ As tamariki collect the NZTC alphabet magnets they can: compare their shapes, match them to name cards or work together to make familiar names. Allow tamariki to lead the game, with time to explore and revisit their discoveries.

New Zealand Tertiary College

The role of kaiako

Join the search, notice what captures tamariki attention and model language naturally. Offer prompts such as:

- “You found an S! Whose name starts with S.”
- “What do you notice about this letter?”
- "What can you see that starts with this letter?"

Support participation through gestures, the images on the NZTC alphabet magnets, verbal clues or searching alongside a friend. Keep the experience enjoyable, allowing tamariki to contribute without needing to name letters correctly.

What tamariki will learn:

- **Recognise** familiar letters, especially those in their names.
- **Explore** and **compare** letter shapes.
- **Use language** to **describe** discoveries and **share** ideas.
- **Cooperate** and **solve problems** with others.

Revisit and extend

Invite tamariki to hide letters for one another, create treasure maps or make signs for their treasure collection. Notice how they recognise familiar letters, explain their thinking or help a friend, and use these observations to plan further opportunities.