

Mirrors, Pipes, and Clay...Oh My!

Literacy Skills / Letter Soundss



Materials

1. Individual hand mirrors
2. Clay, Wikki Sticks, or shaving cream
3. PVC pipes



Virginia SOLs

K.4, K.7

Procedure

1. Name a letter. Ask students to form the letter using clay or Wikki Sticks, or by writing it in shaving cream. Demonstrate on the overhead projector. Describe the letter as you form it and have students repeat your description. For example, the letter F can be described as a candy cane with its arms sticking out. Also use positional and directional words such as, “start at the top and go down.”
2. After students make the letter, direct them to hold the hand mirror and make the letter sound while looking at their mouth. Discuss the positions of their teeth, tongue, and lips when they make the letter sound. It can be fun to look at a friend’s mouth, too.
3. Then, ask the children to hold the pipe to their mouths and ears like a telephone while making the letter sound. This will enable them to hear the letter sound more clearly. It can be helpful and fun to use the pipe and mirror at the same time.