VariQuest™
Visual Learning Tools

Learning Module Activity Guide

Reading & Writing 1

Letter Recognition & Sounds
Basic Grammar & Punctuation
Reading Comprehension
Handwriting

PK-2
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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Learning Activities developed by
Keys to Learning, LLC

PK-2
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THE FOUNDATION OF VARIQUEST LEARNING MODULES

VariQuest supports educators by providing countless opportunities to introduce a variety of visuals and hands-on manipulatives into their classrooms. The use of visuals in the classroom helps students understand and retain information, specifically abstract concepts. Visuals can also help bridge the gap for students who struggle with vocabulary and/or language barriers. Hands-on manipulatives create learning experiences in which students interact with knowledge kinesthetically. Research shows that exposing students to a variety of learning experiences, including visual and kinesthetic, will increase student retention and help students learn to construct meaningful knowledge from information. The VariQuest Visual Learning Tools enhance classroom teachers' ability to provide learning experiences that meet the learning styles of all students.

The aim of the following Learning Activities is to coordinate the VariQuest Visual Learning Tools with lessons and activities that incorporate visual and hands-on learning strategies to reinforce basic skills and provide fun and motivational activities that will supplement your school's curriculum. For best practices and additional information on how to customize VariQuest posters, banners, flashcards, awards, cutouts and manipulatives, review the VariQuest Implementation Guide prior to use.

For the following learning activities, use construction paper for all cutouts unless otherwise specified. Pre-laminating construction paper using a cold laminator adds durability to cut out letters, shapes, numbers and collections.

READING & WRITING 1 OVERVIEW

This module covers alphabet skills, sound-symbol correspondence of initial letters and short vowel word families. Children will also practice letter formation and general writing skills using grammatical and mechanical conventions. Children will apply general reading skills and strategies to identify the main idea and details and compare characters. The learning activities in this VariQuest Learning Module are designed to meet educational standards in innovative and creative ways. Before turning to the learning activities, familiarize yourself with general information that will guarantee ease of use and flexibility.

ASSESSMENT

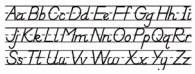
Following the learning activities, you will find a rubric that can be used to guide you in making observational assessments of students' abilities related to the objectives outlined in the learning activities. It is recommended that you make a copy for each student to guide your ongoing informal assessments, making anecdotal notes on the back when appropriate.

VARIQUEST CONTENT

You will find a complete list of all of the content included in this module between the Rubric and Work Order template. The content ID #s (ex. VIS001) for content referenced in the learning activities are listed in the materials section for each activity and are color-coded to help distinguish between templates for the Poster Maker (red) and Awards Maker (purple) and cutouts and collections for the Cutout Maker (gold).

WORK ORDERS

You will also find a work order template on the last page of the Activity Guide. This template can be photocopied and used for placing orders for customized VariQuest posters, banners, stickers, awards, cutouts and collections. It is designed to be submitted to the primary user of the VariQuest Visual Learning Tools by those who may not have direct access to them.



Alphabet 2 Banner
BAN080

Alphabet Banner
BAN081

ABC Banner
BAN077

Uppercase Letters
PRE028

Lowercase Letters
PRE014

I Know My Uppercase Sticker
PEK009

I Know My Lowercase Sticker
PEK008

ACTIVITY ONE

ABC's and abc's

Objectives

- Children will recognize and name all uppercase letters of the alphabet.
- Children will recognize and name all lowercase letters of the alphabet.

Materials

POSTER MAKER:

Alphabet 2 Banner: **BAN080**
Alphabet Banner: **BAN081** (optional)
ABC Banner: **BAN077** (optional)
Uppercase Letters: **PRE028**
Lowercase Letters: **PRE014**

AWARDS MAKER:

I Know My Uppercase Sticker: **PEK009**
I Know My Lowercase Sticker: **PEK008**

OTHER:

Large sticky notes
Envelopes
Tape

Preparation

- Print and display Alphabet 2 Banner or one of the other alphabet banners.
- Print 8 ½" x 11" copies of Uppercase and Lowercase letters, one of each for each pair. Cut copies into two-letter pieces: AB, CD, EF, GH, IJ, KL, etc. Mix up the pieces and place in envelopes marked Uppercase Alphabet and Lowercase Alphabet. Tip: Glue or tape the title from the copy onto the envelope as a label.
- Print I Know My Uppercase and I Know My Lowercase Stickers, one of each for each child.

Whole Class

Sing your favorite alphabet song and point to each letter on an alphabet banner. Then have children close their eyes and put their heads down on tables or desks. Use a large sticky note to cover one letter (upper and lower case) on the alphabet banner. Have children open their eyes and name the hidden letter. The child who guesses correctly comes to the front and covers a different letter with the large sticky note while other children place their heads down. Repeat several times giving different children the opportunity to "hide the letters".

Center Activity

Give each group an Uppercase and Lowercase Alphabet envelope of two-letter pieces. Have them put the uppercase letters in alphabetic order. Give them tape to attach the alphabet pieces together to make a mini horizontal banner. Repeat with lowercase alphabet pieces.

Have children show you their mini alphabet banners, check for accuracy, then reward them with I Know My Uppercase and I Know My Lowercase Stickers.

MODIFICATION

Print 8 ½" x 11" copies of Uppercase and Lowercase Letters. Cut into four-letter strips ABCD, EFGH, IJKL, etc. Mix up the strips and place in envelopes marked Uppercase Alphabet and Lowercase Alphabet. Have children order the uppercase letters, and tape them together to make a mini horizontal banner. Repeat with lowercase alphabet pieces.

EXTENSION

Print 8 ½" x 11" copies of Uppercase and Lowercase Letters. Cut each one into multiple random pieces, cutting between and through letters. Give children tape and the pieces for one or both puzzles and have them reconstruct the alphabet.