Individual Learning Kit

Preschool

What's Included

Your Preschool Individual Learning Kit includes the following materials to help children build skills.

- Magnetic Write & Wipe Lapboard
- 4 Black Write & Wipe Thin-Line Markers
- 48 Magnetic Letters Uppercase
- 78 Alphabet Picture Magnets

- Count and Link
- 150 Playstix®
- Scoop-A-Bug Sorting Kit
- Can Do! Magnets Discovery Kit

Activities

To help you get started, we've included a few activity ideas for using the materials with children.

• Activity 1: Name It, Find It, Write It!

Here are fun and easy ways to get your child identifying, recognizing, and writing letters.

- Place a magnetic letter on the lapboard. Ask your child to identify the letter and help him or her find the three picture magnets that begin with that letter—for example, for A, place the ant, apple, and acorn on the board. Encourage your child to practice writing the letter. If needed, write the letter first and invite your child to trace it. Repeat this activity each week with a different letter.
- For added fun, use paper and crayons to make a weekly letter poster. Have your child write the letter of the week and then draw or glue on pictures of things that start with that letter. Hang the posters around the home or classroom.

Activity 2: Comparing Links

The Count and Link is a great hands-on way for your child to practice one-to-one correspondence, counting, and visualizing quantities. Choose two of the numbered elephants, such as 5 and 10, and have your child count out the corresponding number of links and attach them to the elephants. When your child is finished, ask him or her to compare the two numbers. Which is greater? Which is less? Repeat with other combinations of numbers.





Activity 3: Forming Letters

On the lapboard, outline a letter in the lengths of the Playstix pieces. Then ask your child to use the pieces to re-create each letter. If needed, allow your child to place the pieces on top of the letters on the lapboard as a guide.

Activity 4: My Name Is Great!

- Have your child practice recognizing, identifying, and building his or her name using the magnetic letters. Write your child's name on the lapboard and then encourage your child to build it with the magnetic letters.
- Once your child can identify all the letters in his or her name, it is time for your child to practice writing the name. Write the name on the lapboard large enough for your child to trace. You can even write the letters connect-the-dots style!

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CHOKING HAZARD—Item contains small parts and small ball. Not for children under 3 yrs.

Activity 5: Positional Bugs

Use the Scoop-A-Bug Sorting Kit to teach your child positional words in a hands-on way. Select one bug and one jar from the kit. Position the bug in relation to the jar to demonstrate different positional words and phrases—for example, "above the jar," "inside the jar," "next to the jar," "behind the jar," "in front of the jar," "under the jar," and so on. Have your child position the bug in various ways as you reinforce the skill by identifying the corresponding positional words and phrases.

Activity 6: Color Links

Use the links in the Count and Link set to get your child sorting and patterning.

- Give your child one link and ask him or her to sort through the pieces and connect only the matching-color links. Once your child is finished, repeat the activity until your child has sorted and connected all four colors.
- Invite your child to create pattern necklaces! Prompt him or her to connect the links in a pattern—such as red, blue, red, blue, and so on—to make a necklace. Repeat with other color patterns—for example, red, blue, green, red, blue, green or blue, yellow, yellow, blue, yellow, yellow.



Activity 7: Fine Motor Bug Facts

The Scoop-A-Bug Sorting Kit is a great way to strengthen hand muscles and develop fine motor control for writing. Have your child use one of the scoopers to sort the bugs into the matching jars. Once your child is finished, look at the different bugs–ladybugs, grasshoppers, bees, and ants. Find books about these bugs or research them online. Write facts you learn about the bugs on the lapboard or invite your child to draw a picture of each bug and dictate facts for you to write on a piece of paper.

Activity 8: Playstix Fun

- The Playstix pieces are great for creating shapes. Encourage your child to use the pieces to build different straight-edge shapes—for example, a triangle, a square, a rectangle, a pentagon, and so on. Reinforce the shapes by showing your child matching real-world objects around the home or classroom.
- Encourage creativity and help develop fine motor skills by inviting your child to build with the Playstix pieces. Build spatial awareness by having your child build using the included building guide, or allow your child to build creations of his or her own. When your child is finished building, discuss the structures—for example, *Tell me about what you built. How does it work?* You can even prompt your child to draw a picture of the creation and label it. Create an "Invention Wall" and display all the pictures your child makes.

• Activity 9: Can Do! Magnetic Exploration

Use the materials in the Can Do! Magnets Discovery Kit to explore magnets. Conduct the experiments described on the included activity cards.

• Activity 10: Magnet Hunt

Go on a fun magnet hunt with your child! Have your child walk around the home or classroom looking for items that may or may not be magnetic. Prompt your child to pick up the various objects and place them in a basket for testing with the horseshoe magnet from the Can Do! Magnets Discovery Kit. Which items are magnetic? Which are not?