

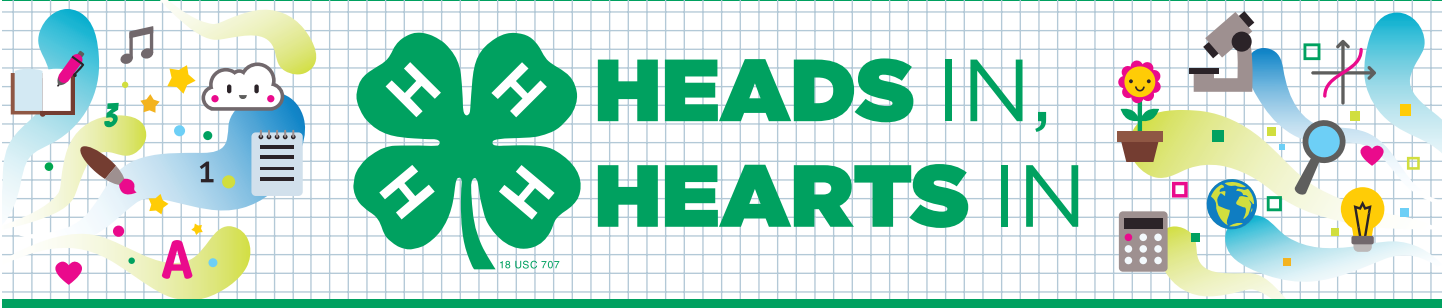
Supplies

- “Guide for Families” handout
- Clear plastic standup display (optional)
- At least 50 wood or plastic clothespins with spring
- Several fine-tip permanent markers
- 2 medium-sized baskets
- “Common Words” Worksheet
- Display table

Activity Preparation

- ▶ Purchase or locate items on supply list.
- ▶ Print one copy of the “Guide for Families” handout. Laminate or place in a clear plastic standup display to allow participants to see it more readily.
- ▶ Write a letter of the alphabet (A to Z) on each clothespin. Write frequently used letters such as A, C, D, E, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, R, S, T and U on multiple clothespins.
- ▶ Place clothespins in a basket.
- ▶ Print several copies of the “Common Words” Worksheet on durable paper or laminate. Cut words apart. Place in a basket.
- ▶ Set up the display table and arrange needed supplies.





Clothespin Letters

Guide for Families

Learning Objectives

What you need to know:

This activity will help a child learn and recognize letters, which will eventually become a combination that creates a word. Letter recognition, which is an important developmental milestone, is instrumental in the success of future reading ability. When participating in this activity, children will also be using the small muscles (fine motor muscles) in their fingers and hands to open and shut the clothespins. Exercising these small muscles is crucial for handwriting abilities in the future.

What you will do and learn:

The child will learn to recognize letters and spell words as they practice and develop their fine motor skills by matching clothespin letters to letters in a word.

Instructions

1. Choose a word from the basket.
2. Look through the basket of clothespins for the letters that in combination make the word.
3. When you find a letter, squeeze the clothespin to open it, and then close it on the piece of paper, aligning it with the correct letter.
4. Repeat the step above until all of the letters needed to spell the word are covered by clothespins.
5. Once you find and cover all of the letters of the word, remove the clothespins and place them back into the basket.
6. Choose a different word and repeat.

Clothespin Letters

Common Words Worksheet

cat	ball	dog
mom	dad	one
two	a	has
my	me	the
she	he	go
can	is	it
are	at	play
no	yes	I