

# Alpha Catch™

## Teacher's Guide



### Includes:

- 4 Catcher's mitts
- 26 Alphabet balls (color-coded vowel balls)
- Game guide

## Getting Ready

### Setting Up Teams

- Two teams of two players: Each player has his or her own mitt. Give each team half the balls.
- Four teams of two players: One player is the "pitcher." The pitcher throws the ball, but does not have a mitt. The other player is the "catcher." The catcher uses the mitt. Children switch positions when they are done. Give each team one-fourth of the balls.

### Play Ball!

Give each team a container of balls. Have teams switch containers when they are done.

# All-Star Games

Children have a ball learning alphabet and phonics skills with these fun toss-and-catch games!

Depending on the age and experience of your students, they can play these games with or without adult assistance.

## Letter Line Up

Players take turns tossing balls to one another, naming the letters shown.

## Ace the Sound

Players take turns tossing balls to one another, saying letter sounds, such as /b/, /c/, /d/, etc. Note: Play with consonant balls only.

## Beginning Sounds Catch

Players take turns tossing balls to one another, naming words that begin with the sounds of the letters shown. Note: Play with consonant balls only.

## Ending Sounds Catch

Players take turns tossing balls to one another, naming words that end with the sounds of the letters shown. Note: Play with consonant balls only. In addition, you may wish to remove letters such as *c, h, j, q, v, w, y,* and *z*.

## Middle Sounds Catch

Play this game with vowel balls (red) only. Have children take turns throwing the balls to one another, saying words that have the target vowels in the middle. Short- and long-vowel words are permitted.

## Round Robin

This game is best played with adult supervision. Have four children stand in a circle with an adult. Toss a ball to Player 1, who identifies the letter shown. Player 1 throws the ball to Player 2, who identifies the letter's sound. Player 2 throws the ball to Player 3, who says a word that begins with the letter. Player 3 throws the ball to the last player, who says a word that ends with the letter, and then tosses the ball back to you. Play rounds until all letters have been used. Note: Play with consonant balls only.

## Word Catch

This game is best played with adult supervision. Reinforce simple short-vowel word formation. Toss three letters, such as *t, c,* and *a,* to a student. Have the student make the correct word (*cat*), then throw the balls back to you.

