

## Build Essential Phonics Skills

Help children construct knowledge about letter sound/symbol relationships. Invite them to listen for initial consonants with riddles from *Which Letter?* (40) Focus your lesson on hearing initial consonant sounds.

### *Which Letter?*

This letter of the alphabet  
is in some messy words you know,  
like *mucky*, *muddy*, *mopping*, *milk*.  
Now write some other words below!

**Answer:** Mm

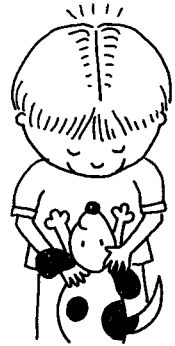
### Let's Practice!

The same initial sound appears in *messy*, *mucky*, *muddy*, *mopping*, and *milk*.

- ★ Read the poem together. Tell your students, *Say the sound your ears hear the most.*

- ★ Invite children to think of other words that begin with the same sound by asking, *What first sound does this group of words share?*
- ★ Brainstorm more words that begin with the same sound. Write the words students generate on chart paper, creating a word bank of Mm words. As you encounter more Mm words in literature, add those to your list!

•**Variation:** Encourage children to use words from the Mm word bank to compose stories. Each time a word in their stories begins with Mm, have your students underline it. Invite students to read their stories from your classroom's author chair. Celebrate literacy at every turn!

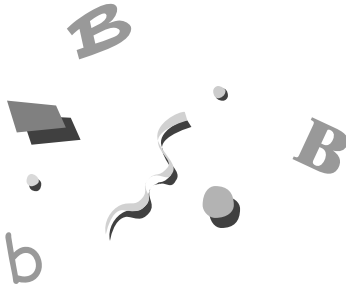
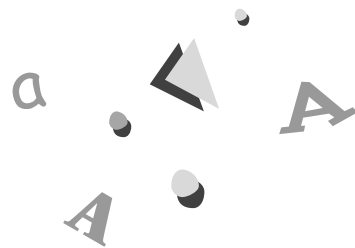


# Which Letter?

This letter of the alphabet is in some awesome words you know, like alligator, ant, afraid.

Now write some other words below!

**Answer: Aa**



This letter of the alphabet is in some beautiful words you know, like bubble, bunny, butterfly.

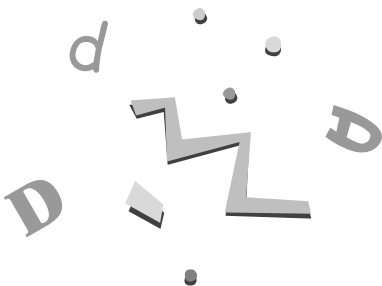
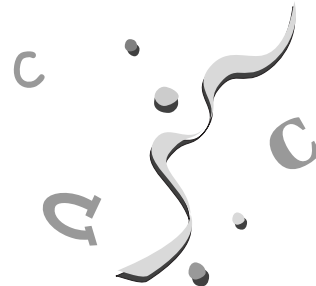
Now write some other words below!

**Answer: Bb**

This letter of the alphabet is in some cool words you know, like cactus, cake, and cottontail.

Now write some other words below!

**Answer: Cc**



This letter of the alphabet is in some dandy words you know, like dolphin, duck, and dinosaur.

Now write some other words below!

**Answer: Dd**