



## Literacy Grab & Go Preschool (3 - 4-year-olds)

**Activity Title:** Shaving Cream Name Writing Practice      **Domain:** Literacy

**Activity Purpose:** Use shaving cream to practice letter formation and recognition.

### Rationale

Reading and writing are equally important early literacy skills for your preschool-aged child. Children can develop their writing abilities by pretending to write as well as writing letters to represent words and syllables.

- Materials:**
- shaving cream
  - table, cookie sheet, tray or plastic placemat
  - paper towels for clean up
  - spoon or craft stick (optional)
  - plastic letters or index card with name (optional)

- Description of Activity:**
1. Squirt a small pile of shaving cream onto a table top, cookie sheet, placemat, or another flat surface.
  2. Have your child spread out the cream with their hands.
  3. Write your child's name in the shaving cream.
  4. Have your child copy the letters under your writing or have them trace your writing before writing letters of their own. They can erase their work, by re-spreading the shaving cream and practice as many times as they like.

**Lagniappe:** This activity is perfect for connecting to your child through play. Shaving cream play can help to reduce tactile sensitivity in children who are bothered by light touch, but may not be for every child. Help your child share their feelings about if and how much they want to touch the shaving cream. You can offer a spoon, Q-tip, or craft stick if they do not want to use their fingers to write.

Encourage pretend writing. As they write squiggly and wavy lines, separate from drawing, they show that their writing has a purpose. This is an important part of children's writing development.