

How to Make Hands-On Learning Purposeful

KEEP EVERY ACTION CONNECTED TO THE LEARNING.

1



Name one learning goal.

Decide what the child should know or do at the end. The goal might be to recognize a letter, connect a letter with a sound, read a word, spell it, or explain its meaning.

2



Choose an action that shows the idea.

Moving a letter to change mat into sat shows how one letter changes a word. An unrelated body movement does not.

3



Guide attention with clear language.

Tell the learner what to notice. Ask, "Which letter changed?" "What sound does it show?" or "How does your model show the meaning?"

4



Keep the materials simple.

Use enough color, texture, or movement to clarify the target. Remove details that pull attention away from it.

5



Ask the learner to explain.

A short explanation reveals whether the student understands the connection or has only copied the actions.

6



Return to print and recall.

After building, have the learner read and write the letter or word. Revisit it later without showing the finished model first.