

Purple Hat Family

Introduction	This activity helps children recognize letter shapes and sounds, and it teaches them specific word families.
Goals	Gain exposure to letter recognition and phonetic sounds. Improve gross and fine motor skills. Learn that letters have specific sounds when put together with words.
Before You Begin	Form your Purplinkers into the letters A, T, B, C, F, H, P, R, S. and place in a basket. Have each child bring their own Purplinker.
Let's Begin	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tell the children that letters have specific sounds. Remove from your basket the pre-folded letters A and T. Lay them on the floor or set them on the whiteboard tray for all to see. Sound out both letters for the children.2. Break the children into small groups and have each group form one of the letters B, C, F, H, R and S. If necessary, you can fold your Purplinker to show how each letter is formed.3. Start by making the B sound as you take the letter B from your basket. Help the children repeat the sound of the letter B. Then have them add their B to the AT and have them sound out each letter again, then the word BAT.4. Continue with each group's letters until all have had a chance to form their word and sound it out.5. When each group's letters are completed, ask if we forgot any? Ask them to think of names and try to guess the name. Pull the letter P out of the basket and show them the name Pat.
Furthermore	Reinforce the lesson by asking the children to practice the letter and word sounds they learned to day and share the sounds with their parents. This exercise can be done with other word groups such as the OT and UT.
The Next Level	The teacher forms three letters (like ops) from their Purplinker set and displays the letters for the whole class to see and asks the children to add a letter in front of the letters to make a word. The children form what letter they think makes the word and then adds the letter to the display and sounds out the word for the rest of class.