



LETTER SEND

Materials you need:

- Used envelopes of all sizes – include some unused if you have the budget.
- Stamps cut from sent letters (this makes a good group project a few weeks before you want to use this activity) If you can't find many stamps just provide some sticker sheets or foam craft shapes for children to peel off the backing.
- Paper from the recycle bin
- Sticky sponge tray (add a kitchen sponge to a shallow plastic container & pour a little watered down PVA glue into the sponge for the children to press stamps etc into)
- Collection of pens, pencils, crayons
- Medium sized box or some smaller shoebox size boxes for mailboxes.

Setup for play:

- Cut a slit out of the front of the boxes (stand on its side vertically). The children might like to help you paint the boxes on another day before using.
- Set out the paper, pens, envelopes, sticker sheets, stamps and sticky sponge tray out on the table near your mailboxes.
- Encourage the children to write or draw their letters, fold the paper up to fit into envelopes, seal then add old stamps, coloured squares of paper or stickers explaining why we use stamps.
- Practice writing names on the front with the older children then post in the mailboxes.
- Allocate a mailperson to collect and deliver the mail to everyone.

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children write their mail then post it they are learning to:

- Use hand/eye coordination skills and concentration
- Use their imagination to explore real life events
- Manipulate small objects using pincer movements
- Strengthen fine motor muscles, visual motor integration and control
- Work independently on a project
- Use descriptive language
- Identify community roles and one of the ways we communicate using text.

Extending the play:

- Write and address some real letters to the children's families. Go on an excursion to buy stamps at the post office and post in the real mailboxes. See how long it takes before they receive their letter in the post. If you can't get to a post office perhaps buy some stamps and walk to the nearest mailbox.
- Watch a YouTube video of how a mail collection centre works and talk about the ways the mail is delivered from this centre to reach homes.

