

## Letter Formation with Shaving Cream

**Materials Needed:** Shaving cream and large surface.

**Learning Target(s):** I can make letters using my finger.

**Directions/Instruction:** Using a large surface like a table, spread shaving cream on the table. Allow your child to explore its texture, smell and consistency. Once ready you can show your child how to make lines in the shaving cream. Once you are done making lines you can begin to write letters. You can start by the letters in your child's name, then move onto different letters.

**Not Ready Yet:** Practice making lines or shapes in the shaving cream.

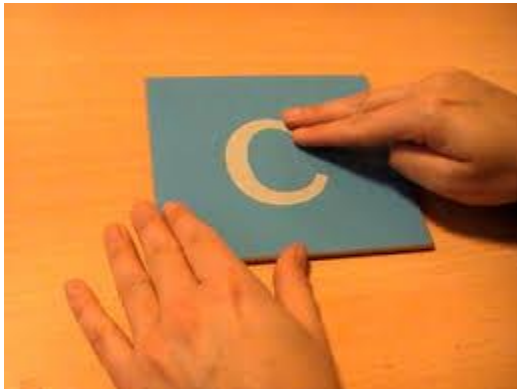
**Challenge:** Ask your student to write their name. Then sight words like the, and, if, too, to, where, etc.



### Other Ways to Practice Name Writing (from Tanja McIlroy)

#### **Sandpaper**

Use a sheet of sandpaper from the hardware store. Trace the letters onto the rough surface. This provides a good tactile experience and helps the brain to *feel* the formation of the letters. You could also write the letters on the paper in chalk and then get your child to trace over your letters.



### Playdough

Playdough is an excellent material for teaching letters through tactile experience. Build the letters of your child's name together onto a piece of cardboard and leave it to harden as a permanent nameplate, or bake in the oven to harden.



### Salt

Make a salt tray by pouring some salt into a small tray or dish. The salt can be substituted with sand or any similar substance. Trace the name into the salt.

This is a similar experience to the shaving cream activity and will help your child remember the letter formation by feeling his fingers move through the salt.



### Natural Materials

Why not go into your garden and make use of what nature gives us for free to teach name writing?

Gather small stones, twigs or leaves and get creative joining them into the shapes of the letters. Provide some wood or craft glue and paste them to make a nameplate to keep.



