

Alphie the Candy Corn Alphabet Cup Assessment Game

A quick, easy and fun center craftivity, for October or Halloween party day, is Alphie, the candy corn alphabet cup. (Students can add a face to the top, or attach wiggle eyes with glue dots.) I used styrofoam cups, orange and yellow acrylic paint and a black ink pen to make these fun "I Spy a Letter!" game "twirlers".

First graders can write their own letters on the top of the cups, but I'd make them for younger kiddos. (I did a class set while watching TV. Takes a minute or two per cup.)

It's not difficult, but little ones have a tendency to write large, and they won't be able to fit all of the letters around the rim. When you make yours, look at my photo.

Letters need to be close, but still have a space, and you'll have no problem fitting them all on, with a bit of a space left over between the Z and A.

Remember the cup is upside down when you write the letters on the rim. Add a second cup so you have a sturdier surface to write on.

You can keep this simple and just make cups with the uppercase letters on them, or "double up" and add an additional cup with the lowercase letters. This way, you can review more than one standard.

When you call out a letter, students twirl their uppercase letter cup 'til their arrow lines up with that letter; then they twirl the lowercase letter cup, so that letter matches up with the uppercase one.

Students literally take 2 minutes to paint a yellow and orange stripe on their cup. (Make sure they write their name on the bottom.) Set aside to dry. Add an arrow, insert cup(s) and play "I Spy!"

This is a quick, easy and fun way to whole group assess. Children hold up their cup when they've found the correct letter and have the arrow pointing to it. They can keep their cups in their cubbies, or you can collect and stack them to use whenever you want to practice upper and lowercase letter recognition.

