Comox Valley Schools
A Community of Learners
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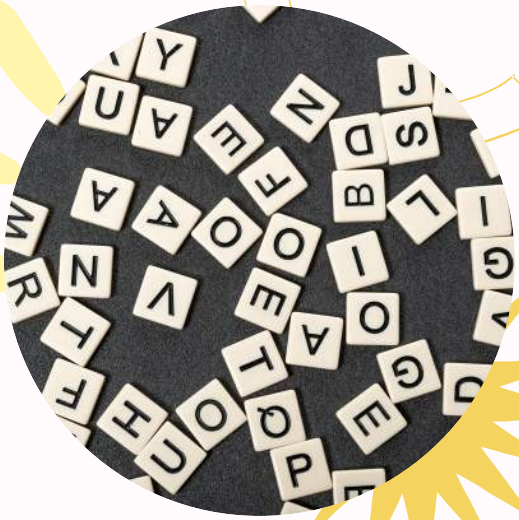
# Word Play:

## Setting the stage for literacy learning



## Why it's important:

**Hearing the sounds in words lays the groundwork for reading!**

- Hearing the individual sounds in words is called ***phonemic awareness***. Connecting those sounds to printed letters is called ***phonics.***
- When your child sees the sounds represented by letters in print, this helps consolidate their letter recognition and the connection between letters and sounds.
- **This activity focuses on identifying letters and sounds in a word that can be switched around to make new words.**

## What's in a Word?

In this activity you will make as many words as you can from one longer word.

***Build a word with letter tiles that is 4*** *(easiest)* ***or 5*** *(a little more challenging)* ***letters.***

***for example:***

***S T A M P***

How many words can you come up with using the same letters in that word? Move them around and write them down (or have your child write them!) to keep track.

***pat, map, tap, past, pats, spat, spam, etc.***

Once you have exhausted your options, try a new word--maybe with more letters!

## Challenge?

Increasing the number of letters in the word will provide more options.

**You may even come across words that have digraphs in them!**

**diagraph= two letters that make one sound (th, sh, ch, wh, etc.)**

***tip:** You can just write the word and write the new words underneath but **touching and moving the letters is an important learning experience for young minds.** Bananagrams or old Scrabble tiles found at thrift stores are the perfect tool for this game.*