

Matan Katan's approach to teaching the *Aleph Bet* is a low pressure, multi- sensory experience designed to provide children with their first exposure to Hebrew letters and the sounds they make.

In this guide, you will find:

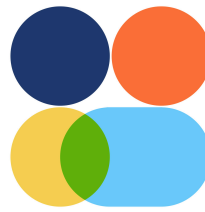
- An edible *Aleph Bet* Mat - block Hebrew letters with pictures of real food items within them that start with the same sound that the letter makes
- Individual “edible” *Aleph Bet* letters (one to a page)
- Black and White “block” *Aleph Bet* mat
- Individual *Aleph Bet* letters (one to a page)

In addition to these items, we recommend having the following items to complete your *Aleph Bet* kit:

- Metal cookie sheets (to put the *Aleph Bet* mats on)
- Hebrew letter magnets (to place on the mats on the cookie sheets)
- Hebrew letter blocks, stamps, etc.
- Sand
- Play Doh/Model Magic/Floam
- Recording of *Aleph Bet* song (the version that includes *vet, phey, sin*, etc.)
- Markers, crayons, coloring utensils
- White boards, dry erase markers/chalk boards, chalk

The *Aleph Bet* instruction in Matan Katan is structured such that most of the exposure to the letters is through center-based, child-directed activities. This is because at this young age, the goal of the *Aleph Bet* instruction is simply to provide repeated, intentional exposure to the letters and their sounds in fun, engaging ways.

The center activities are multi-sensory, and provide multiple points of connection for students to begin associating the letter symbols with their corresponding sounds. The center activities provided in the lesson plans can all be made more structured and teacher-led if you want to teach more towards mastery. This may be more appropriate for slightly older children, or if you are teaching in a school environment that is more conducive to more formal Hebrew instruction.



Ways to Use Matan Katan Aleph Bet Materials

- Use each “edible” item to create a “letter project”. Trace the letter for each student and paint with syrup (*sin* or *samech*), glue popcorn (*pay*), lay out sliced bananas (*bet*), etc. In most cases, that food item can also be snack for the day.
- Create one large letter. Following the same idea, trace one large “communal” letter that everyone helps decorate.
- Have children draw the food item on their traced letter, thinking about color, shape and size.
- Use individualized blackboards or dry-erase boards to have students practice writing the letter.
- Give students Play Doh/Model Magic/Floam to create the letter shape, or cover the letter with Play Doh.
- When introducing a letter, create a large class list of all the words they can think of that begin with that letter sound. Highlight the word that is the same as the picture on the letter.
- As a class, write a short silly song or poem about the letter.
- As a class, recite the list of words they think of that begin with that letter sound.
- Use “sky writing” to allow the children to use large motor skills to form the letter.
- Show students the letter and have each child create yoga poses to look like the letter.
- Divide students into groups and have each group create the letter using their bodies.
- Play *Alef Bet* “duck, duck, goose”. Once students have learned several letters, put the Edible *Alef Bet* letters in the middle of the circle. With each child’s turn, they select two letters from the middle. They say the name of each letter, or the sound it makes based on the picture and then others can help. They use those two letters in place of “duck, duck, goose” – for example, “*Bet, Bet, Gimmel!*”