Congratulations on your purchase Really Good Literacy Center-in-a-Bag™ Alpha Match, a hands-on activity that strengthens your students’ letter-recognition skills.

**Objective**
Students identify letters of the alphabet.

**Meeting State Standards**
This type of practice in matching upper and lowercase letters with pictures helps students meet grade-level expectations and prepare for standardized testing. Alpha Match can help improve letter-recognition and letter-naming skills.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
- 2 Alphabet Mats
- 52 Alphabet Tiles
- 2 Storage Pouches
- Center Task Card
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Letter recognition and letter naming are essential in developing phonics and phonological awareness skills. Playing Alpha Match, early readers enjoy identifying illustrated Alphabet Tiles, saying the letter names, and matching the letter and picture to corresponding letters and pictures on the Alphabet Mats. Through repeated play, students build essential alphabet fluency skills.

**Introducing Alpha Match**
Alpha Match provides a fun setting for students to engage with and manipulate illustrated Alphabet Tiles, recognizing distinctive letter features as they name and match both letters and pictures to the corresponding Alphabet Mats.

**Model the Activity**
Begin by modeling the activity, discussing every step with students. Start with one Alphabet Mat for practice. Begin modeling with either the upper- or lowercase Mat. Show students how to select the corresponding set of upper- or lowercase Alphabet Tiles. Demonstrate placing the Mat on a flat surface, and stacking the Tiles face up next to the Mat. Model choosing the top Tile, saying the name of the letter, and matching it to the same letter on the Mat. Explain to the children that the objects illustrated on the Alphabet Tiles and Mats begin with the letter shown. Continue until all of the Alphabet Tiles have been placed on the Mat. After modeling Alpha Match, use it as an independent literacy center activity. Students can play individually or in partnerships.

**Center Task Card**
Post this at the literacy center in a visible position. The student or helper can refer to the Center Task Card for instructions. Refer to the shaded section at the top of the Card for center preparation, including needed materials.

**Alpha Match Game**
One to four students
Object: Identify the letters of the alphabet
Materials: Alphabet Mats, Alphabet Tiles
1. Select the uppercase or lowercase Mat and Tiles for play.
2. Place the Mat on a flat surface and stack the Alphabet Tiles face up next to the Mat.
3. Take an Alphabet Tile, say the name of the letter- and match it to the same letter on the Mat.
4. Continue until all Tiles are matched.

**Extension:**
Have students match lowercase Tiles to the uppercase side of the Mat, and vice versa.

**Variation:**
Have students name the letter, name the pictured object, and say its beginning sound.

**Managing the Center-in-a-Bag**
- Display the Center Task Card.
- Copy and file this Activity Guide for future use.
- Separate upper- and lower-case Alphabet Tiles into Storage Pouches.
- Demonstrate how to tidy the center when the activity is complete.
- Store the center materials in the bag and hang it alongside other Centers-in-a-Bag.