Nine Ways of Working with Magnetic Letters

For each student in the group, make a "personal letter bag" containing the student's known letters. For those students who know very few letters, include several sets of each known letter. As students learn additional letters, add them to their letter bag.

1. **Match Letters to an Alphabet Chart**
   Give each student a copy of the Alphabet Chart (in a sheet protector). Tell them to match the letters in their bag to the letters on the chart, having them name them as they place them on the chart.

2. **Match the Letters in the Bag**
   Ask the students to find the letters that are the same. For example, find all of the "m's" and put them in a line.

3. **Match the Upper and Lower Case Letters**
   Put matching upper and lower case letters in their bags. Ask the students to find the capital letter that matches the lower case letter.

4. **Sort by Color**
   Have the students put letters of the same color in a line and name them as they line them up.

5. **Sort by Shape**
   Tell students to find all of the letters in their bag that have a circle (or a stick, or a tail, or a cross, etc.). Tell them to line up these letters, point to each one and name them. Then ask the children to find the letters that have two of those features.

6. **Name Letters Left to Right**
   Tell students to put their letters in a line and name them as they line them up. Encourage speedy recall.

7. **Name a Word That Begins With That Letter**
   Ask the students to pick a letter from their bag, say the name of the letter and say a word that begins with that letter. If children have difficulty thinking of a word, refer them to the alphabet chart.

8. **Name the Letter That Begins That Word**
   The teacher says a word and asks the students to find the letter that makes the sound at the beginning of the word. For example, the teacher says, find the letter that you hear at the beginning of "ball."

9. **Find the Letter That Makes That Sound**
   Ask the students to find the letter in their bag that makes a particular sound. For example, "Let's see if you have the letter that says, /t/."

Adapted: Richardson