



# ARTS INTEGRATION AT HOME

## ALPHABET RELAY

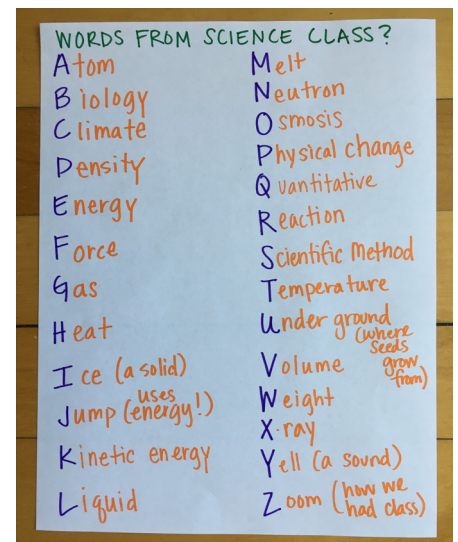
Through these arts integration activities we want to offer a few simple, creative, educational, and arts-based ways to spice up your distance learning. The directions for the activity are shared in two ways - for caregivers/teachers and for kids who can read so they can do the activity independently. Have fun, and feel free to share what you do with us.

Tips for how to utilize these strategies:

- Use this strategy today, or print it out for a later date.
- Feel free to use a strategy more than once. Repetition will help students become familiar with the directions and then be able to take more ownership of sharing what they know through the activity.
- Play them for fun - you don't have to stick to talking about school information.

### ALPHABET RELAY

The end of the school year is a time for reflecting. Today's activity, Alphabet Relay, is an energetic way for kids to reflect on this unique school year - from what was challenging to how much they've learned and discovered.



I learned Alphabet Relay from Katie Dawson at UT Austin. You can see a longer description of the activity in the link below from the [Drama-Based Instruction](https://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/alphabet-relay) website created by Drama for Schools at The University of Texas at Austin.

Alphabet Relay: <https://dbp.theatredance.utexas.edu/content/alphabet-relay>

These activities are curated by Sarah Coleman, Portland Ovations' Director of Engagement/School Programs. Sarah is a theatre educator, an arts integration specialist, and a former classroom teacher who has taught students in grades K - college as well as led professional development workshops for teachers around the country for over 15 years.





# ARTS INTEGRATION AT HOME

## ALPHABET RELAY

### DIRECTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS/TEACHERS

On a poster sized piece of paper write out the alphabet, in two columns, with enough space between and after each letter for a word to be written. Tape the poster on a flat wall with space in front of it or lie it on an open area in a room. Students will start about 5 feet away from the poster. (It might be helpful to have a line, or object, or piece of furniture to stand behind.) Share the question that they will be responding too (see Questions below). Give the first person in line a writing utensil. After the “go,” the first person runs to the poster and writes a word that begins with “A” next to the letter. They run back to the next person in line and hand off the writing utensil. That person then runs up and writes a word that begins with “B.” This

#### Questions:

- What word begins with the letter ...?
- How would you describe your school year?
- What do you know about the Civil Rights Movement?
- What words do we use in math?

#### Then What?

There are many ways to amend the rules to this activity to change it up. Here are a few ideas.

- Have students come up with the question that guides the relay words.
- If your student is learning another language see if they can fill out each letter with a word from that language.
- Let students fill out any letter that they want. This means that it is harder for those waiting in line to plan ahead.
- Ask them how long they think it will take them to fill out the poster and set that as their time limit.
- Create two posters and have the students switch back and forth between the two.

#### Tips!

- Some students might need a little prep time to words to write. You can give them a few minutes at the beginning to think. Or remind them that they can count ahead to figure out what letters they will have. Or, eliminate the time challenge so that they do not feel that pressure.
- If you are playing with just one student, they can still get up and move. Put a few writing utensils in different places around the room so that after each letter they have to run somewhere to get the new marker or pencil.

#### Follow up Questions

1. How did it feel to play? Were you nervous or excited?
2. How did you all do responding to the question? Any words you should add or subtract?

*Follow up questions allow kids to practice [reflection and metacognition](#) (thinking about one's thinking) both of which are key parts of effective learning.*





# ARTS INTEGRATION AT HOME

## ALPHABET RELAY

### DIRECTIONS FOR KIDS

*This activity, Alphabet Relay, is a fun and energetic way to share what you know - in alphabetical order.*

#### How to do this activity

1. On a poster sized piece of paper write out the alphabet, in two columns, with enough space between and after each letter for a word to be written.
2. Tape the poster on a flat wall with space in front of it or lie it on an open area in a room.
3. Stand in a line about 5 feet away from the poster. It might be helpful to use a piece of tape or an object as a line to stand behind.
4. Make sure everyone knows the question that they will be responding too (see Questions below).
5. Give the first person in line a writing utensil.
6. After someone says “go,” the first person runs to the poster and writes a word that begins with “A” next to the letter. Remember, your writing must be neat enough to read.
7. They run back to the next person in line and hand off the writing utensil.
8. That person then runs up and writes a word that begins with “B.” This continues, alphabetically, until all the letters are filled in.

#### Questions:

- What word begins with the letter ...?
- How would you describe your school year?
- What do you know about the Civil Rights Movement?
- What words do we use in math?

#### Then What?

- Fill the poster out in any order any you want. How does this change the game?
- Decide how fast you think you can fill out the poster. See if you can meet or beat that time.
- Create two posters (with two different questions) and switch back and forth between the two.
- If you aren't sure if you are going to be able to come up with words, take a few minutes before the game starts to brainstorm.
- If it's just one person playing, place writing utensils around the room and use a different one, in the same pattern, for each word. That way you have to get up and move!

**After you play a few rounds, take a few minutes to think about and discuss these questions.**

1. How did it feel to play? Were you nervous or excited?

2. How did you all do responding to the question? Any words you should add or subtract?

