

Learning Games with Spanish Bananagrams

Playing with Letters

- Stack, build and make patterns with the tiles. Name the letters as you do.
- Sort and stack the tiles by letter.
- Put the tiles in alphabetical order. Separate the set before you start.
- Say the letter name and slide the tiles across the table to each other, or try to slide them into a circle on the table (you can use chalk, tape, whatever works for your surface). You can use letters from a specific word or random letters.
- Start with all the letters face up and say the letter names as you turn them face down. Do variations such as turning and saying them as fast as possible, or saying a word that starts with the letter as you turn it.
- Build favorite words from books. Kids look at the word on the page, find the letters and then build the word.
- Drop the tiles into a glass or bowl of water as you say the letter names.
- Put the tiles into a clear plastic bottle and add rice. Turn the bottle to reveal the tiles and name the letters.
- Play with the tiles in the bathtub. Line them up on the edge and say the letters or make simple words.

Working with Words

- Choose a winning word to make. Start with 7 tiles. Alternate drawing letters, always discarding after you draw. The first to make the word wins.
- Use the tiles face up to play ahorcado (hangman).
- Make words for things you can see in the room. They do not have to connect. Place the tiles face up and draw at will. The first to make 3 or 5 words wins.
- Play a vowel race. Give each player the 5 vowels. Place the tiles face up and draw at will. The first to make a word that contains each vowel or the first to make 3 words that start with different vowels, wins.
- Say words for kids to spell. Let them tell you words and spell them.

- Play *¿Qué palabra es?* Make a word and leave one letter (or two) face down. The other player guesses the word.
- Work together with 10 or 15 letters to make as many words as possible. You will want to list the words on paper as you form them so you remember what you have made. You can do this with different sets of letters and then switch to see who can make more words with the different sets.
- Each player draws 7 tiles. One person plays a word (and draws from the pile to replace her letters). The next player makes a word crossword-puzzle style off the first word and then removes the unused letters from the first word. Playing this way there is always just one word to play off and no obstacles. It is a great game for language learners.
- Make a 5-letter word, a 4-letter word, a 3-letter word, a 2-letter word and a 1-letter word. The words are not connected.
- Make a word and stack the tiles with the first letter on top. Kids try to guess the word as you reveal the letters one by one.
- Choose a category and make words of things in the category.
- Put squares for the number of tiles next to pictures on coloring sheets. Kids build the words on the squares to label the pictures. (You can trace the tiles to do this.) Make copies to use them again later or for a group.
- Use the tiles to label objects or pictures from magazines.