

Arabic Sandpaper Letters

What you need:

Sandpaper

Printed copies of Alphabet Templates

Cardstock – they have these in small card sizes or you can cut them the size you want from larger sheets.

Scissors

Glue



How to Make:

- Print off each Alphabet sheet.
- Cut each sheet in half on the line or you can just cut a circle around each letter (do not cut around the letter exactly but around the letter).
- Using just normal sandpaper, place the letter facing down on the back of the sandpaper. I believe I taped it in a place or two to hold it still. Cut around the letter exactly this time. For letters with dots, etc., I cut those out separately. I purchased special scissors that are meant for cutting more precisely – such as for scrapbooking.
- Glue the letter to the cardstock. I printed out a template of how all the letters should look when complete to make sure I placed any necessary dots, etc., in their proper places.
- Since I found the cardstock was not as hefty as I wished, I waited until all the cards were dried and then I stapled an additional card to the back of the card with a letter in the four corners.

For other ideas on creating sandpaper letters, do a search on the internet for “Sandpaper letters”. I have seen people also use glitter glue and just color in the letter onto cardstock. The main thing is to be able to have your child “feel” the letter and how it is written.

Purpose of using Sandpaper Letters:

For a good explanation of sandpaper letters, you might want to search for “sandpaper letters” on the internet. This is just a washed down version in my own words. Since this is based on the Montessori Method of teaching, you could also do a search on the internet for Montessori or Montessori Method.

To learn the sound and shapes of the Arabic Alphabet.

You can help your child mimic the act of writing the letter (feeling the sandpaper in the proper hand movements) as a prelude to writing.

With the sandpaper letters, you can introduce the phonetic sounds to the child. In the Montessori approach, the sounds of the letters are taught before the child is introduced to the names of the letters. Research has shown that it is best to learn one thing at a time. It is too much to have to remember both names and sounds. If the child is taught both the names and the sounds in the beginning, it has been found that the child gets confused when trying to sound out a word because it is difficult to remember which the letter represents. Therefore, to avoid the added difficulty, the phonetic sound of each letter is taught first, and the names of the letters are taught later.

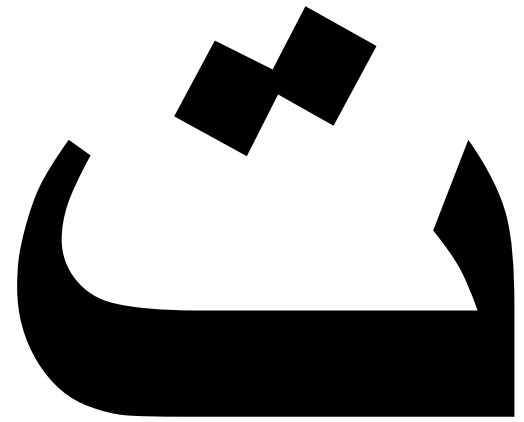
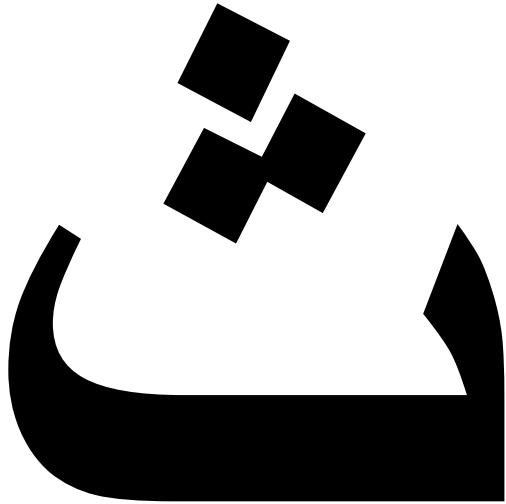
The teaching of the sounds and letters is through a multi-sensory approach. The child will hear the sound, see its representation in the form of a letter, and feel the way it is written as the child feels the letter with his fingers. Since a motor pattern should be learned correctly the first time, it is very important that the child trace properly formed letters. This will help him develop a good pattern for handwriting.

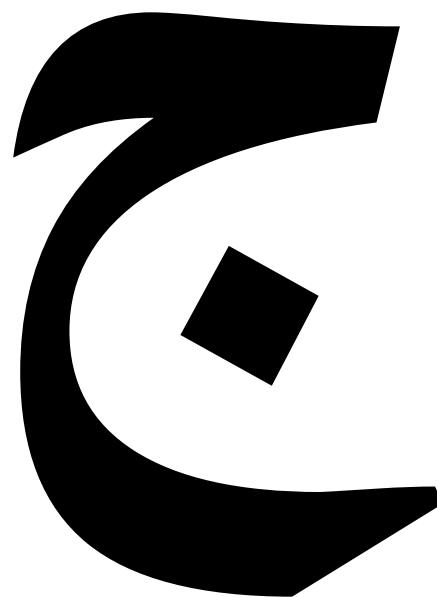
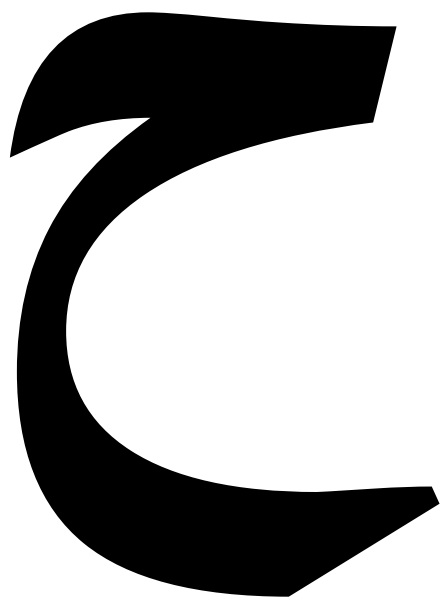
What about the vowels?

As for vowels, I will do as I have seen the Islamic Montessori Group do in their suggestion - they simply made a cover that is the same size as the card out of heavy plastic (perhaps a transparency) and put on that plastic card the vowel marks. When you want to introduce the letters with vowel marks, just place the plastic card over the letter card. When I make them, I will show you a picture (but since we are just now going to focus on the letters I will skip that for now).

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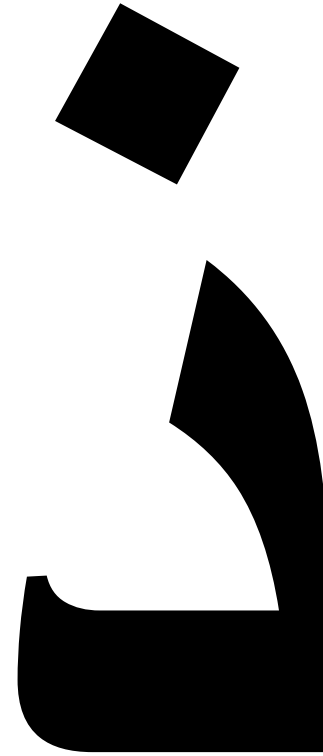
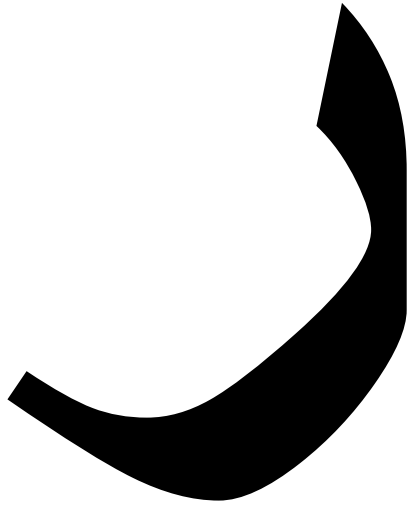
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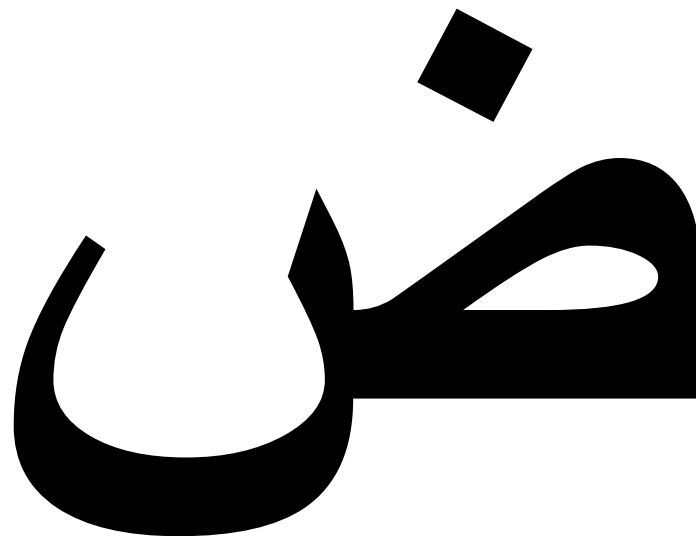
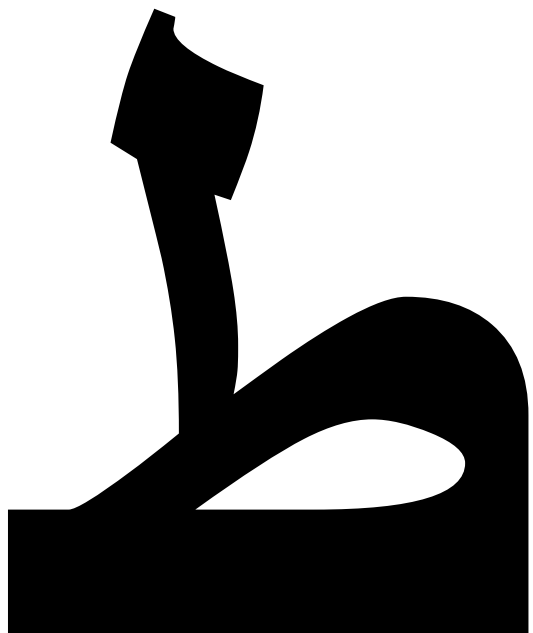


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