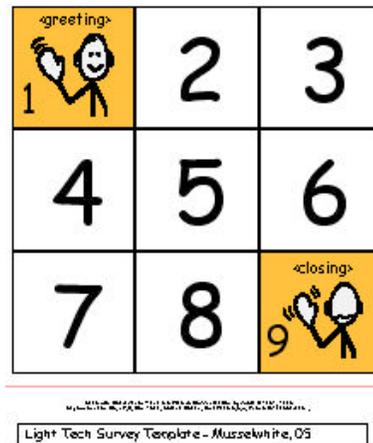


# Insta Charting: Vote with Letters

**WHAT:** This strategy is designed to support students in making active choices throughout the day. This offers the chance to vote on a variety of issues, such as:

- Preferences (Do you want to watch movie A or B? Which do you want to read about – dragons or insects? Do you want to go on a walk or to the playground for recess?)
- Opinions (Do you like (singer)? Do you think we should have a party for Valentine's? Do you think we should recycle at school?)
- What people know (Do you think an asteroid was the primary cause of the extinction of dinosaurs? What continent has the Andes Mountains?)

For other ideas, see the September, 2004 Tip of the Month, 'Survey Displays' at [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com). Briefly, that tip provides communication displays and ideas to support individuals who use AAC in **giving** surveys, while this tip provides ideas for **answering** surveys. Using the display shown on the right, a student would give a greeting, tell about the survey, then ask the survey questions plus follow-up, followed by a closing.



**WHO IS THIS FOR:** This strategy gives students a chance to practice using the alphabet – even a single letter – for authentic purposes. Thus, it is ideal for students in who are beginning to learn the alphabet. Students have to figure out the first letter of the word, in order to make their vote.

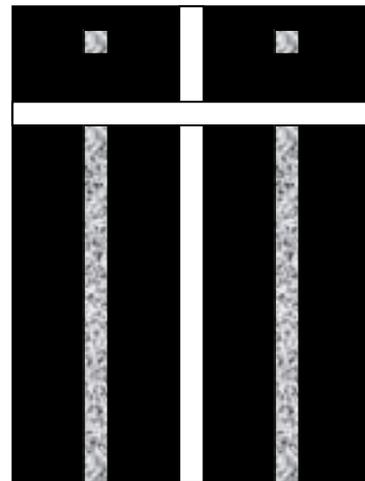
## LOGISTICS:

### Making An Insta-Chart:

Make a quick chart, using simple materials. For example, the one shown on the right uses:

- Tag board (laminated)
- White stickyback Velcro
- Black stickyback Velcro

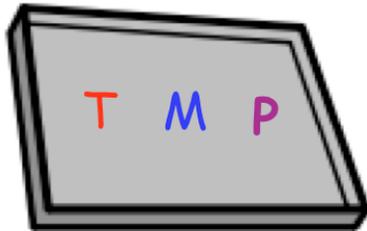
This Insta-Chart is portable and can be set up quickly, using photos, symbols, or PostIts.



### Setting Up the Alphabet for Voting:

While some students may be able to use a traditional pencil, or a pencil or marker with an adapted holder, many students will require accommodations. Many alternative pencils are described in the May, 2009 Tip, 'Alternative Pencils' at [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com). Samples include:

- a) Eye gaze alphabet flip boards, alphabet eye gaze boards, or other letter boards provided on the Alternative Pencils CD from the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies



- b) Limited letter set, such as magnetic letters combined with a cookie sheet, as shown to the right. Remember that it is important for students to also have chances to use the FULL alphabet, so that they understand that the subset of letters comes from the full alphabet!

### USING THE INSTA-CHART FOR REAL PURPOSES – REAL LIFE SAMPLE:

#### Voting for Book Topics:

The photo on the right shows an example from Miss H's seventh grade classroom. The class had agreed to help make Big Books for a preschool that had a limited library (for more info on this project, see the May, 2003 Tip, 'Older Students Write' at [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)). Two students chose their favorite topics from a set of pictures, and those pictures were placed on the Insta-Chart. Note that the words were NOT included! Each student first shared their choice with an aide using pictures. Students then used magnetic letters to give their vote to the teacher.



*Example:*

- 1) Shalika eye-pointed to 'dog'. Her aide placed the letters D M L on a cookie sheet.
- 2) When Shalika chose 'M' the aide gave evaluative feedback, '/m/ dog' – nope, try again (removing the letter M)
- 3) Shalika chose 'D'. Instead of praise and a 'high five', the aide once again gave evaluative feedback: '/d/ dog – right, D for dog. Super, Shalika!'