

# Beginning Handwriting and Phonics

## Introduction

### Welcome to Beginning Handwriting and Phonics!

Please read through this introduction for an overview of what you will find in this course and how to use the resources provided. The Lesson Plan is a guide for parents to use but can be adapted to the needs of individual students and available resources. The most important thing as we introduce learning to our young students is to make it fun and enjoyable.

The course is designed to use 3 days per week for 32 weeks but there are plenty of activities to spread out over the whole week if desired and can be used beyond the 32 weeks suggested as well.

### Information About the Tracing Activities

The course has a Pencil Control Booklet to download in Week 1. It includes several activities to help students learn how to hold and control a pencil while tracing a variety of lines and patterns. You may choose to use a few or all the activity sheets as needed.

### Information About the Letter Activities

The course suggests introducing a letter each week and provides multiple activities to choose from. These letter activities are used from Weeks 2–27. In addition to the course activities, there are many ideas for learning phonics. These may include, but are not limited to, tracing letters in shaving cream or whipped topping, sculpting letters out of play dough, writing letters with sidewalk chalk, painting letters, writing letters in the air and trying to guess the letter, etc.

Reviewing the letters learned in previous weeks is recommended so that students retain them better and can build upon them.

- **Letter Hunt** (*optional, letter recognition*): Includes a worksheet for students to color or circle the images that have the lowercase or uppercase letter being introduced.

Ideas for use:

- Sound out the letter as you color or circle each image.
- Come up with a new word beginning with the letter each time you color or circle it.

- **Animal Poster** (*optional: letter recognition*): Includes an animal that starts with the letter in the shape of the uppercase letter.

Ideas for use:

- Write the letter within the animal letter.
- Add pictures of things that start with that letter within the animal letter.
- Come up with other words that begin with the letter. Say them out loud, emphasizing the sound of the first letter.
- Display the letters on a wall and refer to them each day before starting a new letter.

- **Letter Formation Station** (*handwriting*): Includes showing how to form the uppercase and lowercase letter. There is an opportunity to trace the letter and to write it freehand. Each letter download contains two letters to form. Practice the first letter in the download as

directed in the lesson plan and the following week can be used to review the first letter as you introduce the next letter as directed in the lesson plan. For example, the Letter Formation Station for the Letter Bb has both the Letter Aa and Letter Bb.

- **Beginning Sound Matching Game** (*phonics*): Includes colored images of various items that start with the letter. Some of the letters have a B&W option and color option. Emphasize the sound of the first letter in each image as you say them. It is suggested to save these to play throughout the week or as review in the future.

Ideas for use:

- Download, print, cut out pieces, and use as a matching game. For example, hide the pieces around a room and have students find them and match pieces together correctly.
  - Play Memory Match. Place all pieces face down. Each player turns over two pieces each turn, trying to match them. If a player makes a match, keep it and go again. If a player does not make a match, flip pieces over and the next player takes a turn. Whoever has the most matches at the end wins.
  - Say/find other things that begin with the letter.
  - Sound out each word emphasizing the letter being introduced.
- **Trace the Letter** (*handwriting; optional*): Includes three lines of uppercase letter practice and three lines of lowercase letter practice. You can use as additional practice as needed, perhaps on a separate day of the week or as review on the following week. It is not recommended to do the entire pack in one sitting. Do small sections at a time as interested.

- **Dot Marker Letter Formation** (*optional*): Includes an upper and lowercase letter with dots that allow students to follow the shape of the letter. If you don't have a dot marker, use a regular marker, crayon, paint, or other alternative to put dots within the circles. Students may even use stickers or glue an object in each dot area.

Note: Not all letters include the Dot Marker Letter Formation activity. Some letters include both uppercase and lowercase, some only include one option, and other letters don't have any.

- **Coloring Page** (*phonics*): Includes the uppercase and lowercase letter, along with images that start with the letter to color.

Ideas for use:

- Trace the letter to practice handwriting.
  - Say the name of each item out loud while coloring to practice recognizing the sound.
  - If students do not want to color, show the page and say each word as you point out the image, emphasizing the sound of the first letter.
- **I Spy the Letter** (*letter recognition and handwriting*): Includes a section to practice writing the letter in both uppercase and lowercase.

Ideas for use:

- Color or dot the uppercase letter being learned with one color. Then color or dot the lowercase letter being learned with another color.
- Trace over the letters as students finds them.
- Say a word that begins with the letter being learned as you color each one.

- **Letter Tracing** (*handwriting*): Includes tracing practice for both the uppercase and lowercase letter and images that start with the letter to color. Emphasize in this section that the students do not have to do the entire worksheet. We want learning to be fun! Do a little of uppercase and a little of lowercase. If students want to do more, then do more. It can be used throughout the week as letter review.

Ideas for use:

- Color the pictures.
- Say the name of each image out loud as you point to the picture.
- Have students come up with new words that begin with the letter.

- **Sort the Letters** (*letter recognition*): Includes a cut and paste activity to sort the uppercase and lowercase letter. Cutting and gluing also helps with fine motor skills.

- **What Starts with Letter** (*phonics*): Includes images that start with different letters. The object is to identify and color or circle the images that start with the letter of the week.

Ideas for use:

- Say the words out loud, emphasizing the sound of the first letter.
- Have students repeat the sound of the letter of the week.
- Instead of printing, show the page and have students point to the image that begins with the week's letter and say each word out loud, emphasizing the letter sound.

- **Spin and Color** (*handwriting*): Includes a spin and color the correct letter game. Note: a pencil and paper clip are needed to complete this activity. The Letters D, F, L, O, Q, and U have alternative activities to use instead of Spin and Color.

Ideas for use:

- Trace over the letters to practice letter formation.
- Make it a game. One person has the uppercase letters and one person has the lowercase letters. Whichever ones are colored first wins!

## Information About the Letter Review Activities

These letter review activities are used in Week 28. Choose the activities that work best for your students.

- **Alphabet Spinner**: Includes a spinner to create. You will need scissors and something to fasten the spinner together.

Ideas for use:

- Say the letter that appears on the spinner.
- Say the sound of the letter that appears on the spinner.
- Say a word that begins with the letter that appears on the spinner.
- Have students find an object that begins with the letter that appears on the spinner.

- **I Have, Who Has Game**: Includes colored or B&W cards with each letter of the alphabet and a picture beginning with the letter. This game is best used with several students or family members.

How to play:

- Pass out all the cards to students. Pick a child to go first and read a card. Some students may not be able to read yet and will need help to begin. Whoever has the correct letter for “Who has?” will go next and read the correct card. Play until all the cards have been read. To challenge the students, time how long it takes to complete and see if they can beat the previous time.
- The students can mix it up and say the letter, say the object, or sound out the letter.

- **Ice Cream Letter Match** – Includes colored or B&W ice cream cones with uppercase letters and ice cream scoop with lowercase letters. Cut out each cone and ice cream scoop and have students match the correct lower and uppercase letters.
- **Initial Sounds Board Game:** Includes a fun board game. Print and prepare the board and counters, then follow the directions on page 1 to play. Note: You will need a die to play the game.
- **Sound Match:** Includes a worksheet for students to draw a line to match each letter to the picture that has the same beginning letter.

## Information About the Number Activities

The Lesson Plan suggests a day to practice each number from 0–10. These number activities are used from Weeks 29–32. Just like letters, there are many other activities to enjoy in addition to the course. This can include tracing numbers in shaving cream or whipped topping, sculpting numbers out of play dough, writing numbers with sidewalk chalk, painting numbers, writing numbers in the air and trying to guess the number, etc.

- **All About Numbers:** Includes steps on how to form and practice writing the numbers 0–10 and a section with four activities to practice counting to each number.
- **I Spy Numbers:** Includes a coloring activity to recognize the numbers 1–10. Students can color, circle, or point to each image that shows the number being introduced.
- **Number Formation:** Includes a B&W and colored workbook with numbers 1–10. Each number has activities to practice number formation and counting.
- **Number Formation – Jungle Theme:** Includes a B&W and color option workbook with numbers 0–20. Each number has activities to practice number formation and counting.
- **Number Formation Mat:** Includes one page that shows how to form the numbers 0–10. It is suggested to laminate or put inside of a sheet protector and use a dry erase marker to practice the numbers whenever choose so that the activity can be used over and over again for additional practice.
- **Number Mats:** Includes activities for numbers 0–10, such as word recognition, color the number of items, trace the number, write the number, and draw the number of dots to show the number.

## **Additional Information**

As you use this course, remember to work at a pace that is best for each individual student. Not all activities are required and the activities in this course are not an exhaustive list. Any fun ideas you find to help students practice and learn through play will enhance the experience. The most important thing is to have fun and be prepared to stop if students appear frustrated or tired. We want it to be a positive environment so they will always be eager to learn.

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