

Parent's Guide to Early Reading: Pre-K Edition

Made with Love by: Jenifer Bazzit



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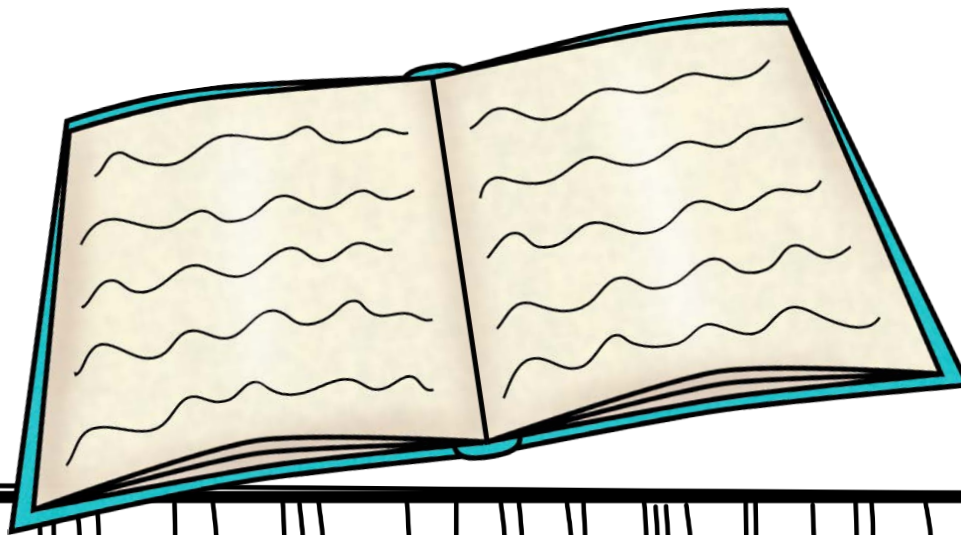
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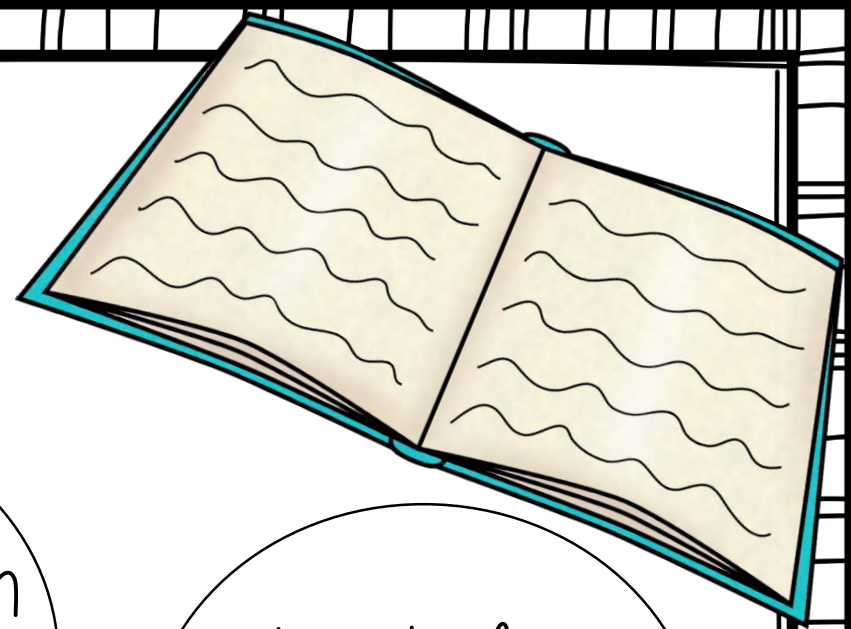
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The 5 Big Areas of Reading



Phonics

Attaching sounds to written language

Comprehension

Attaching meaning to words

Vocabulary

Our knowledge of words and our ability to use them

Phonemic Awareness

Hearing and using the sounds of our language

Fluency

The ability to read quickly and effortlessly



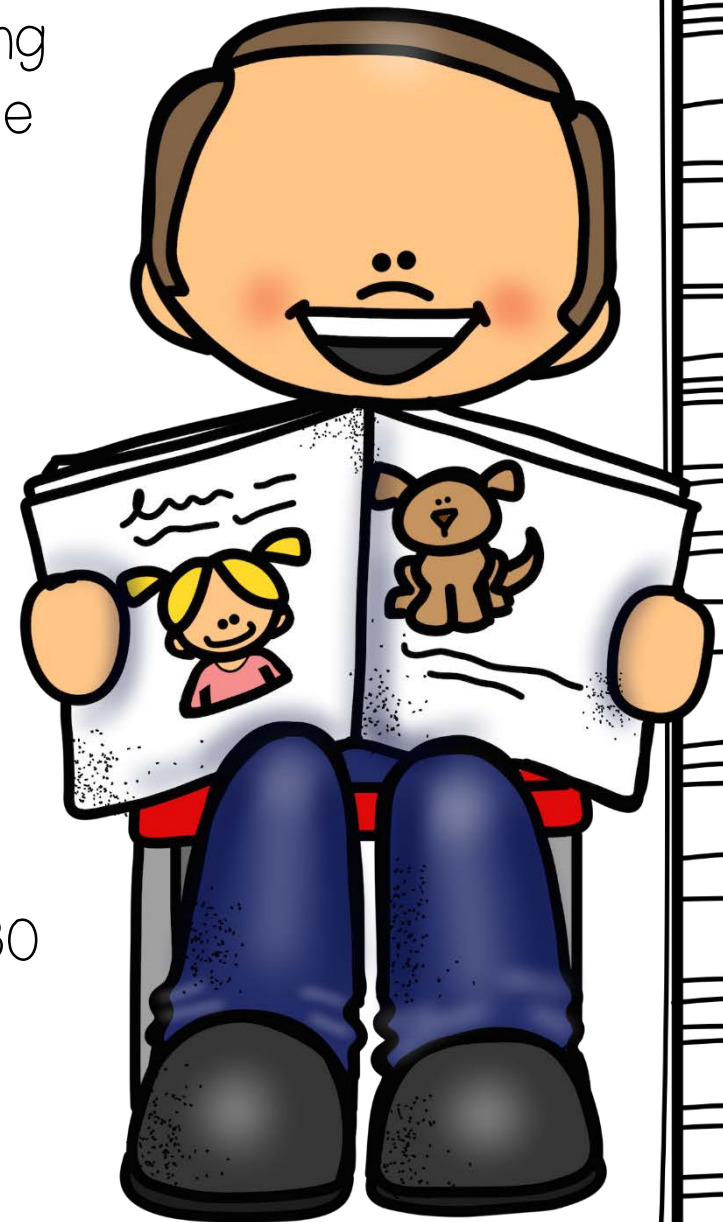
Read to Your Child

Reading practice is crucial for all children. Reading with a parent or loved one is a special experience for a child.

Imagine two scenarios:

- Burke reads 20 minutes per night with his grandmother, usually 5 nights per week. During one year, Burke experiences 5,200 minutes of reading with his grandmother.
- Anna rarely reads with her dad. If time allows, they might read for 5 minutes at bedtime, 3 days per week. During one year, Anna experiences 780 minutes of reading with her dad.

Which child will probably become the more successful reader?



Learning Letters and Sounds

Make it fun!

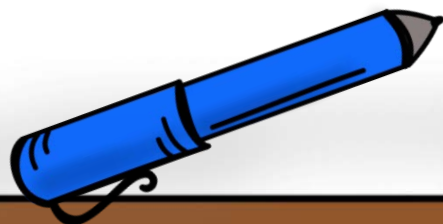
Keep track of the letters and sounds your child knows. Then, make a plan for the new letters and sounds on which you and your child will focus. Make a simple chart on notebook paper.

Britton knows these letters and sounds:

S M K L D

This week, we will focus on these letters and sounds:

C N



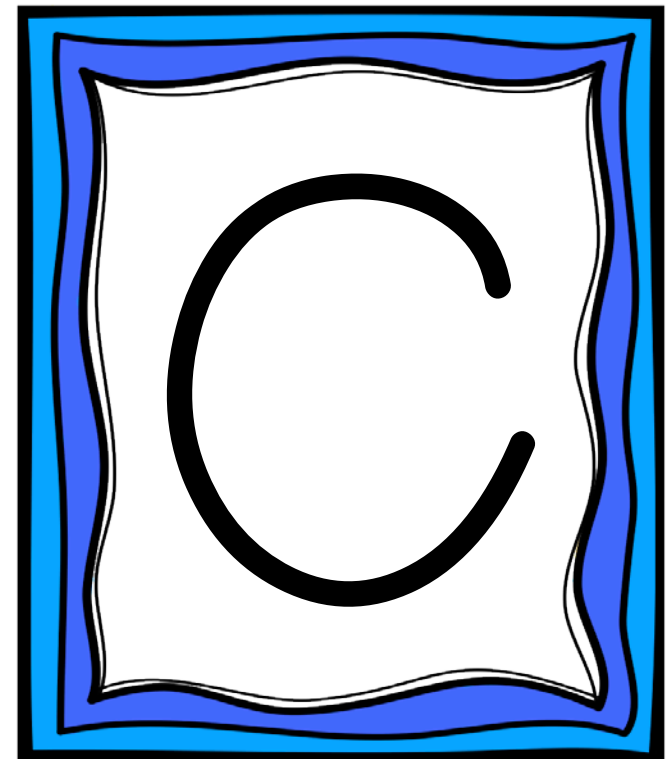
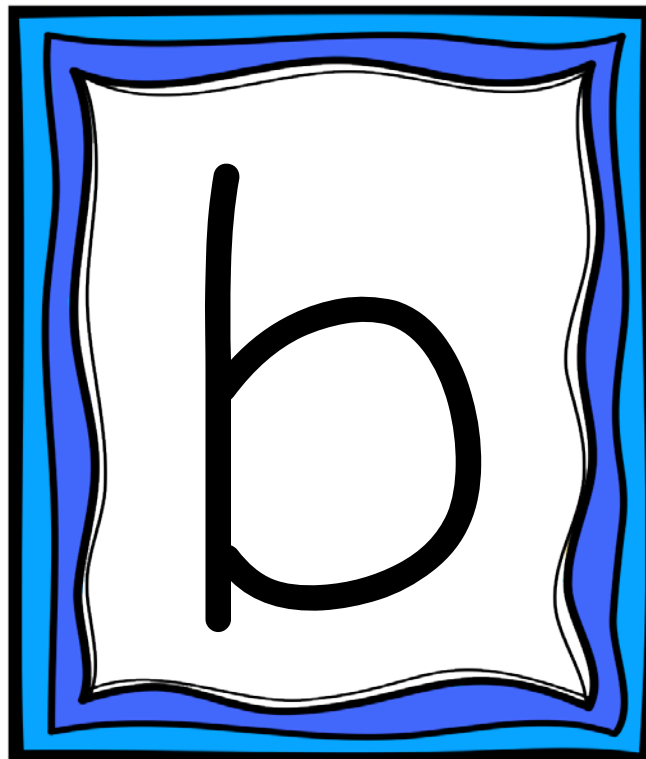
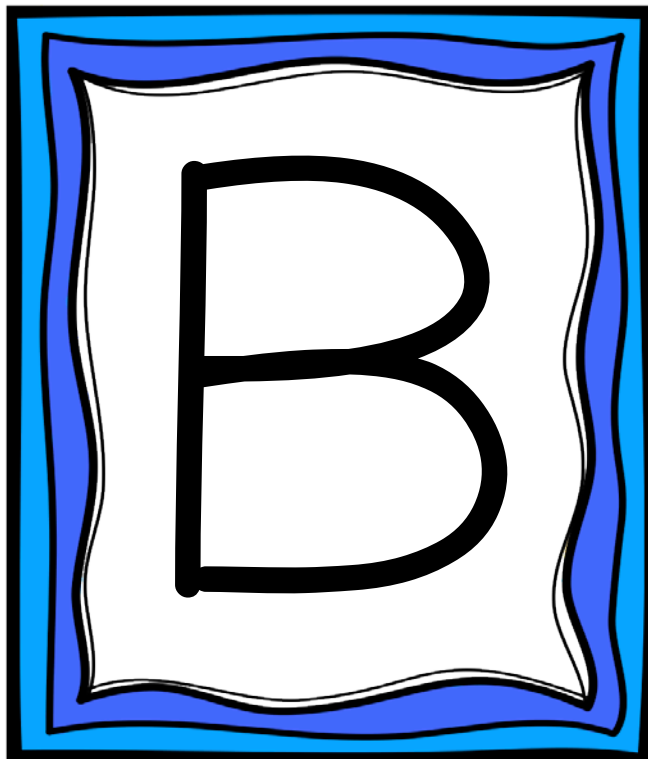
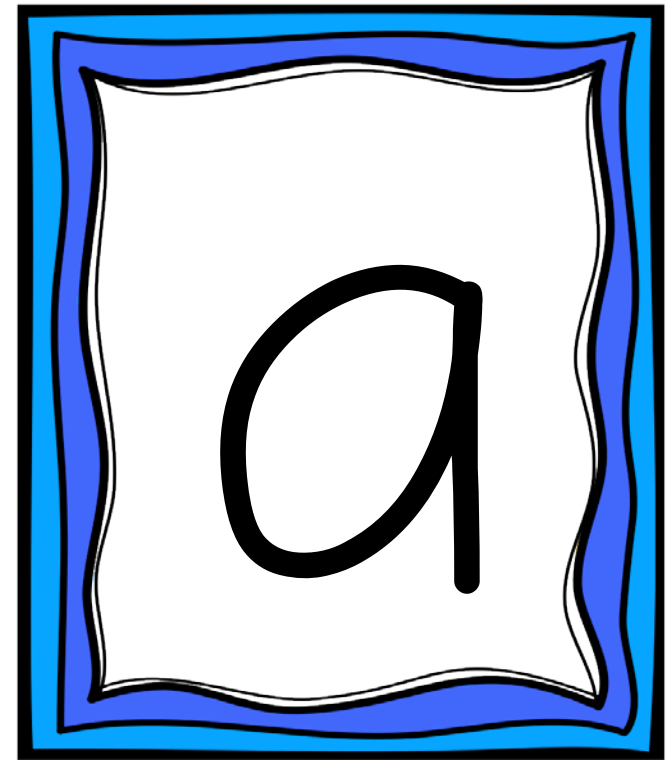
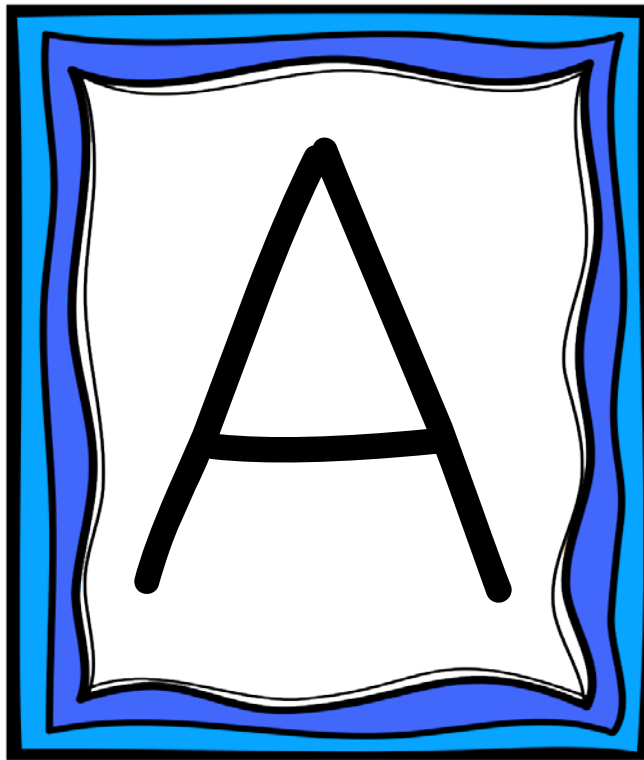
Note: Many teachers introduce the letters of the alphabet out of order. If you want to follow the order of your child's teacher, ask him/her for a listing of the order in which the letters will be taught.

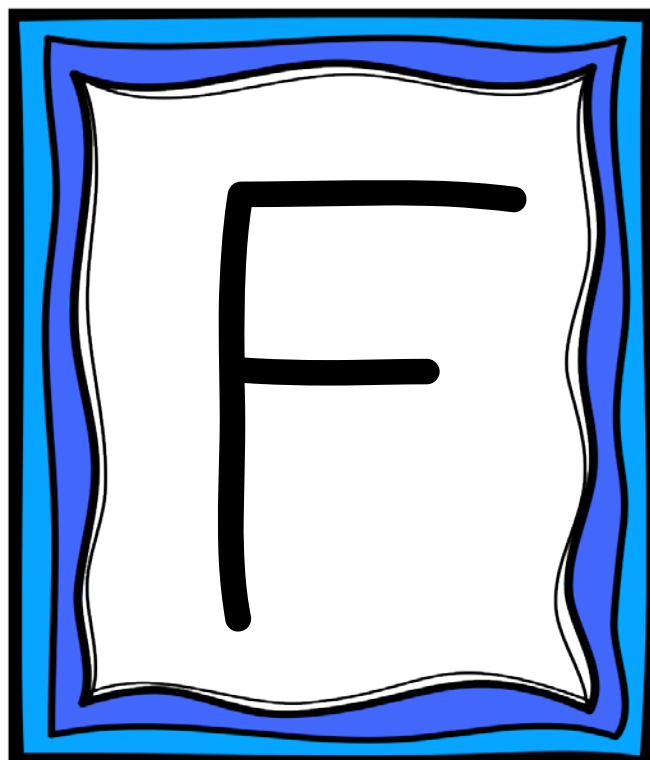
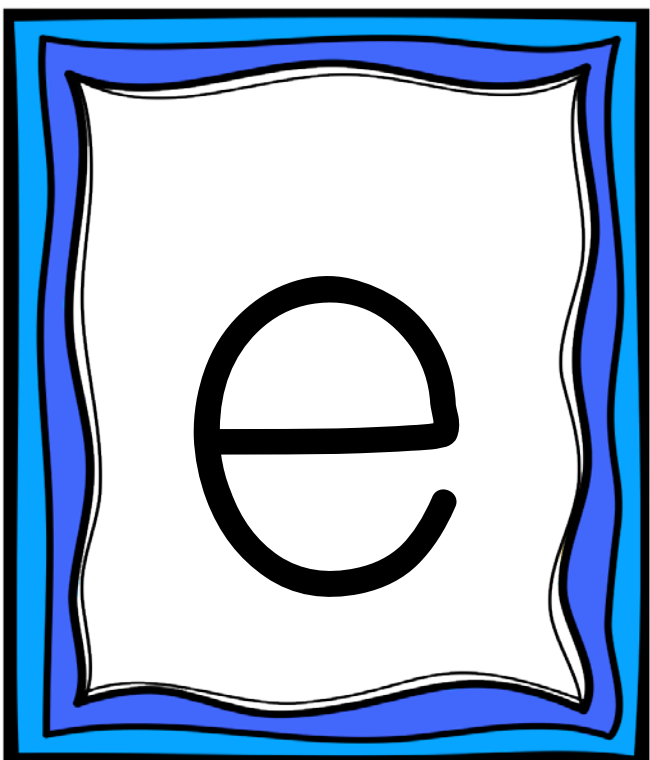
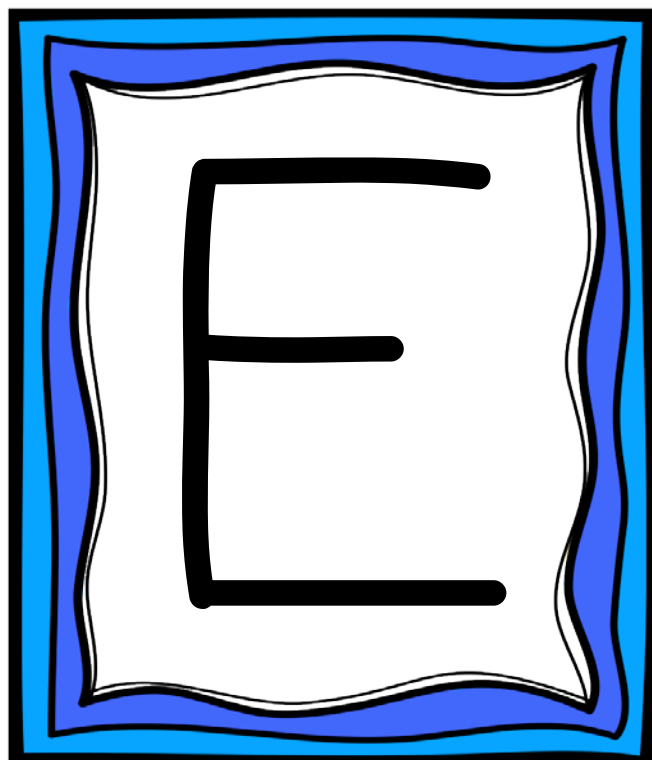
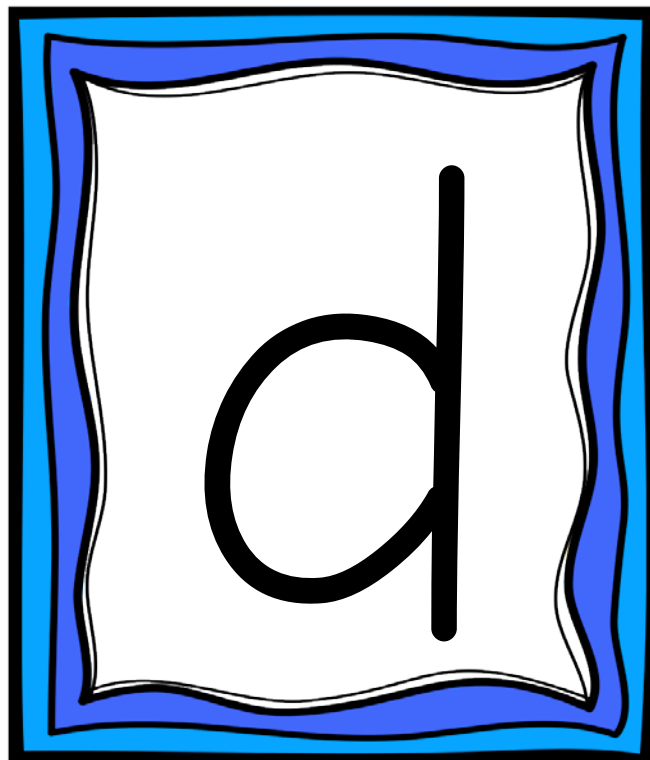
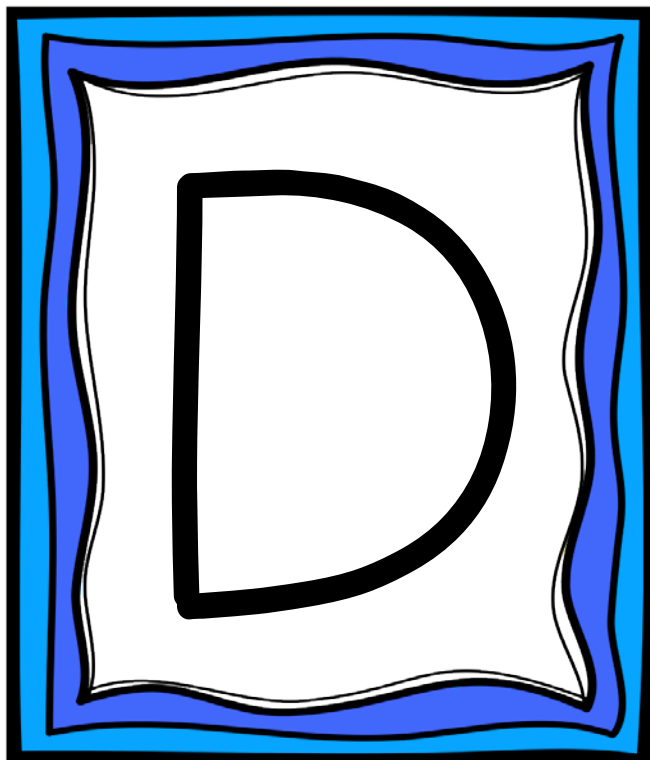
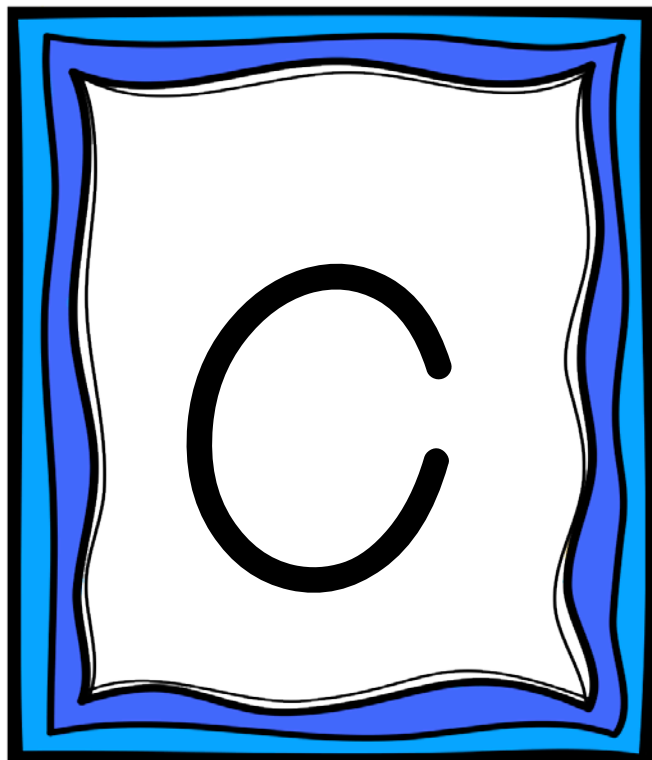
Activity Suggestions:

- When eating at a restaurant, point out letters on the menu. Ask your child to name the letters and sounds.
- Use bath crayons to write letters in the tub at bath time. Ask your child to copy the letters and say the sounds of the letters.
- Play the "Letter Walk Game." Spread out several letter cards on the floor. Say a letter. Ask your child to walk around until he/she finds the letter. He/she must say the sound to earn a point. 5 points = a treat!

Uses for these letter cards:

- Flashcards to help your child learn letters and sounds
- Match capital and lowercase letters
- Simple letter games
- Later, use these cards to make simple words like "cat" and "pug."





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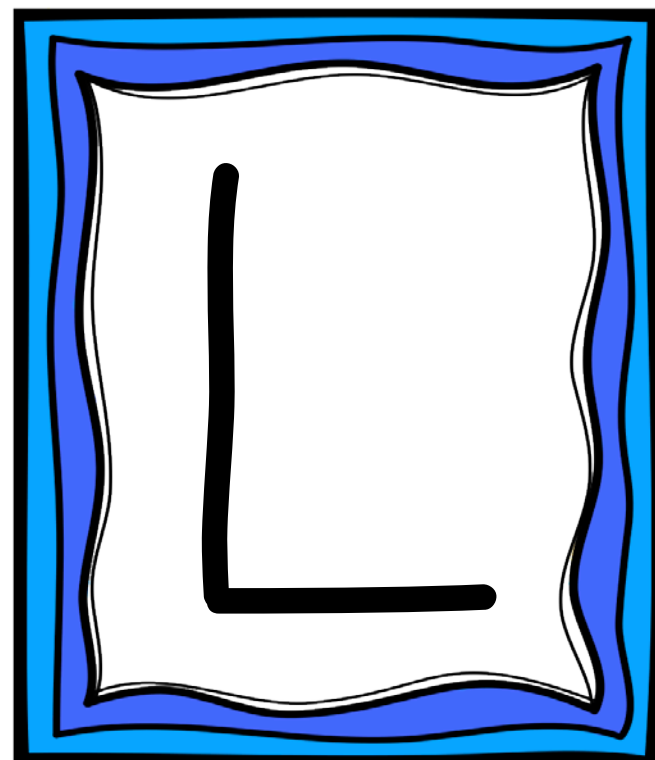
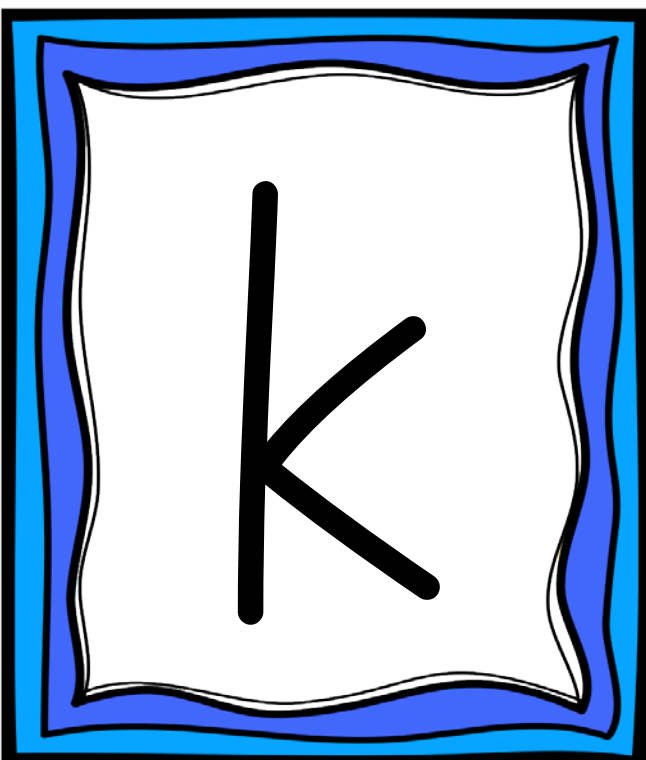
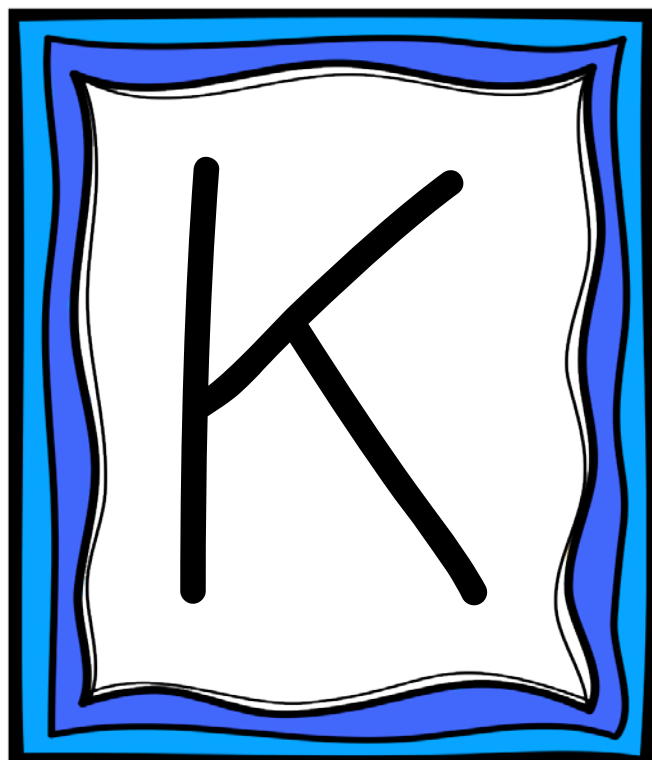
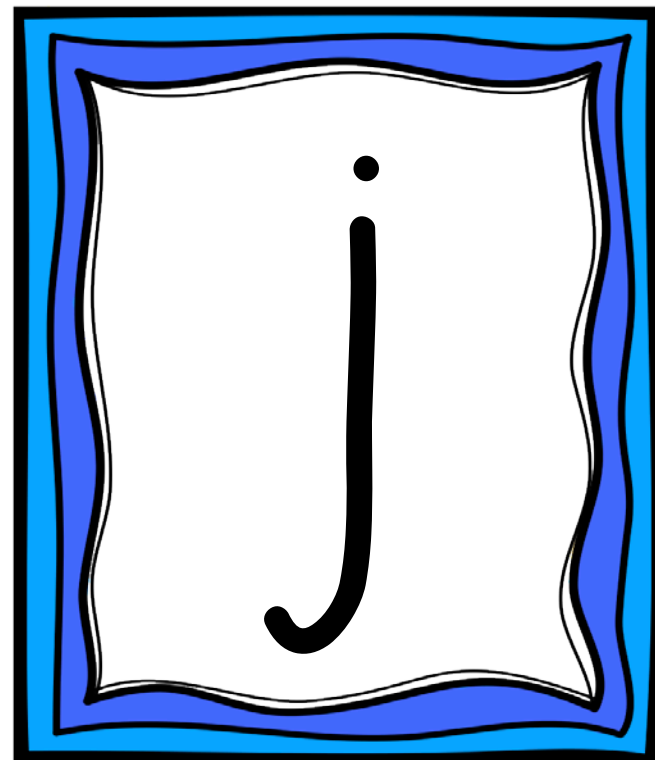
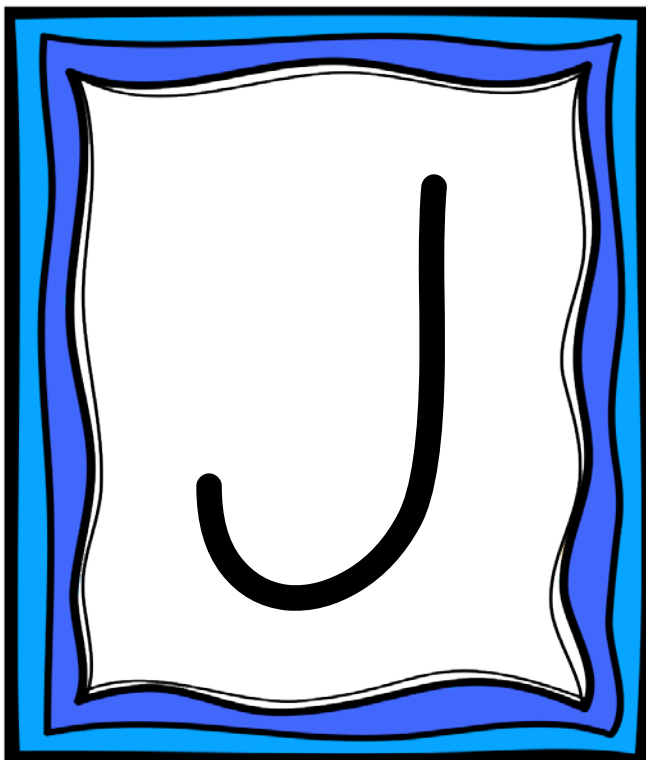
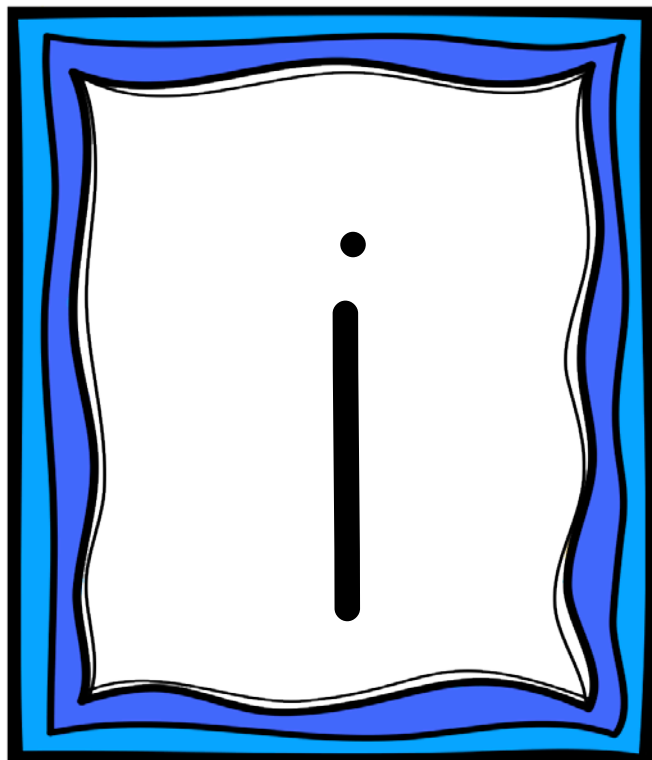
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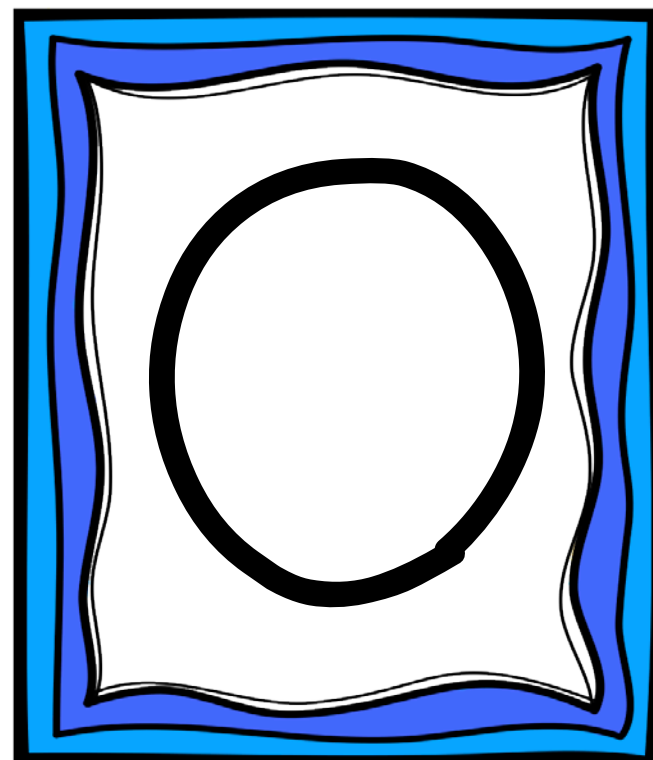
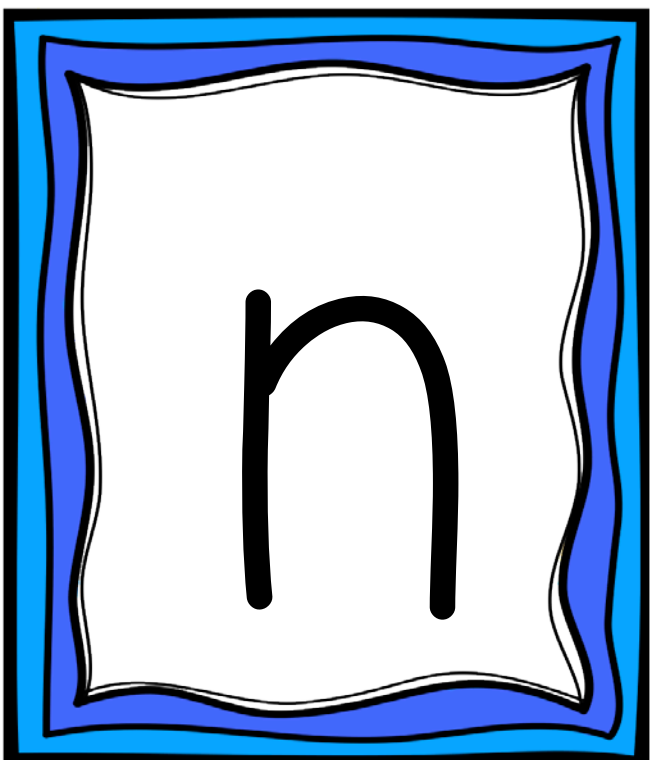
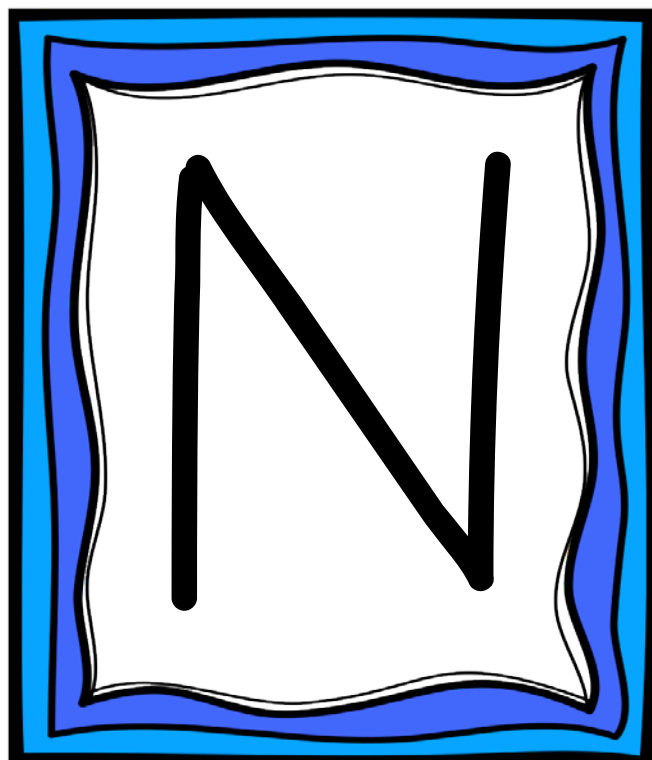
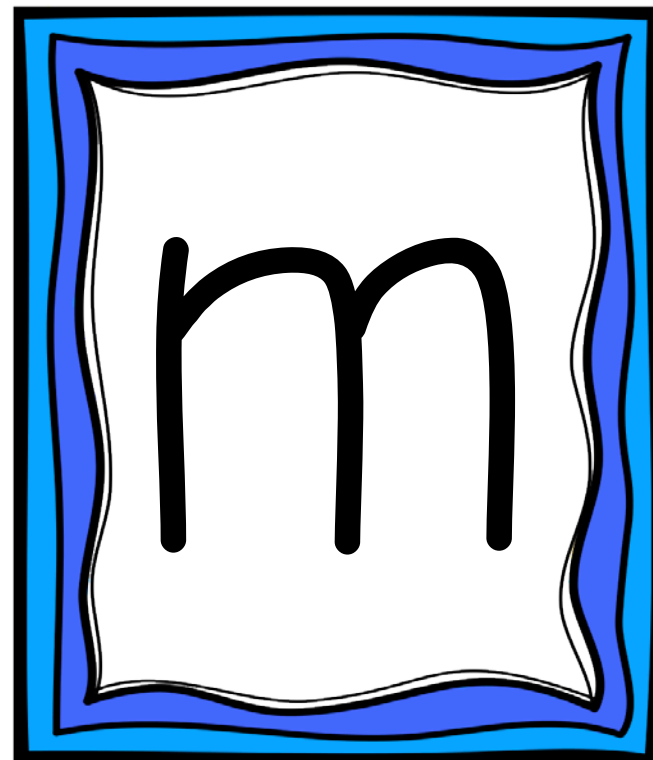
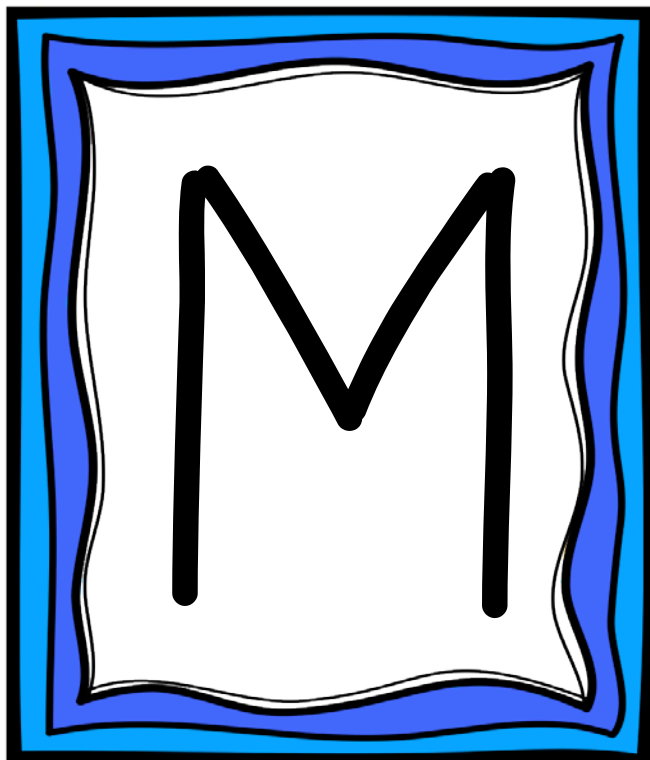
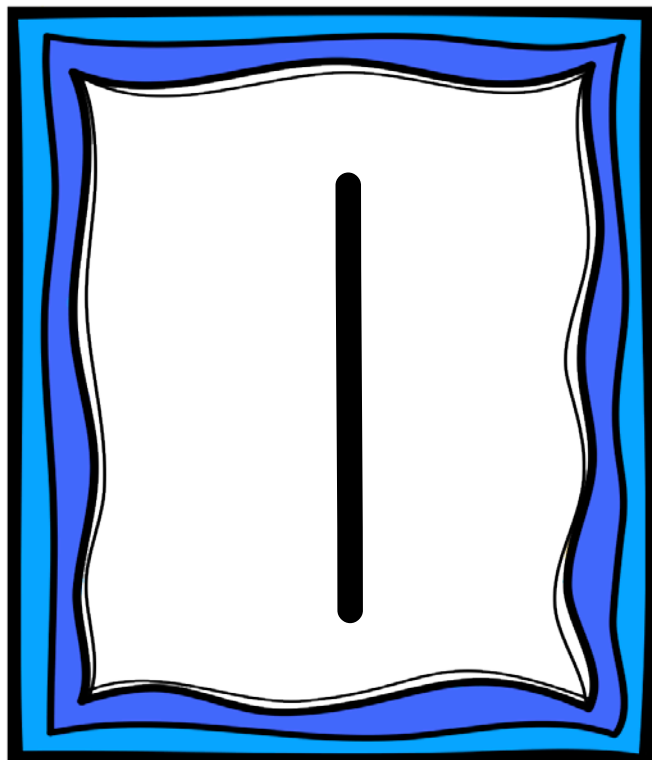
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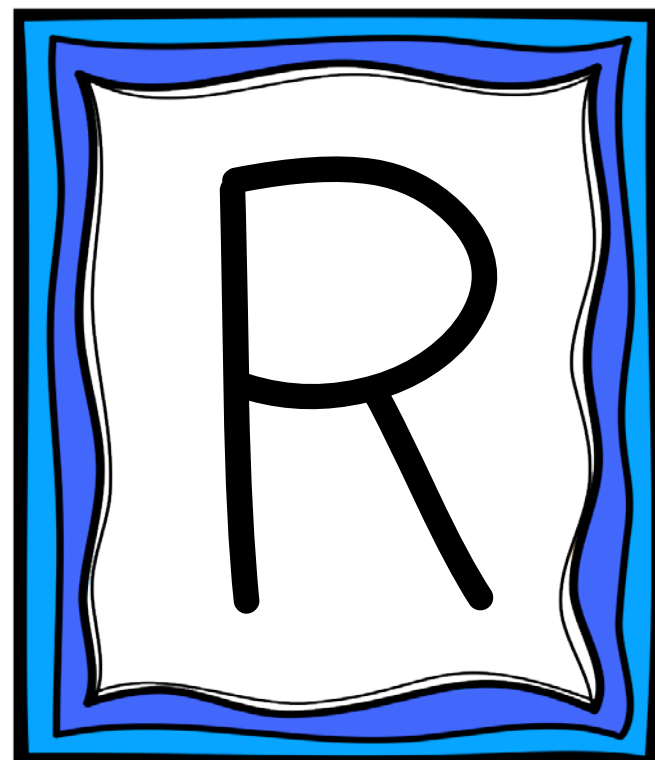
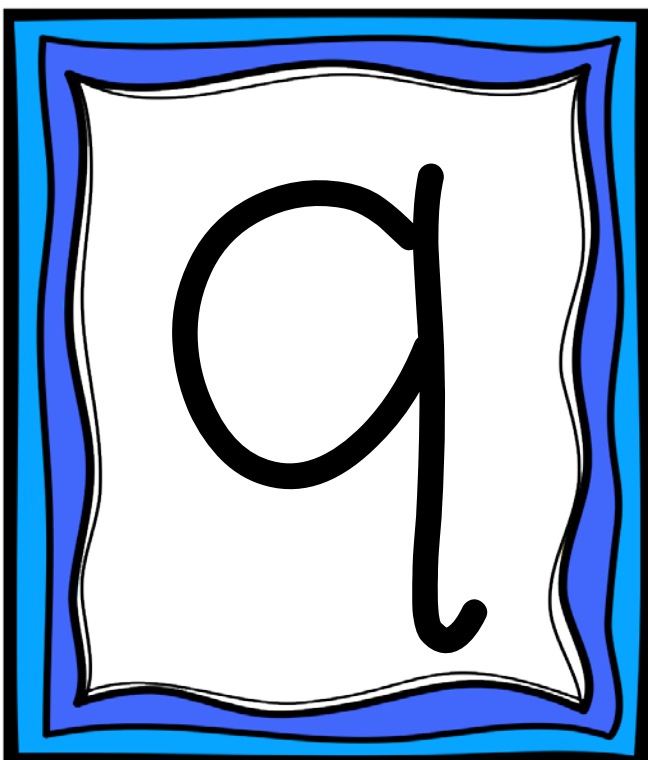
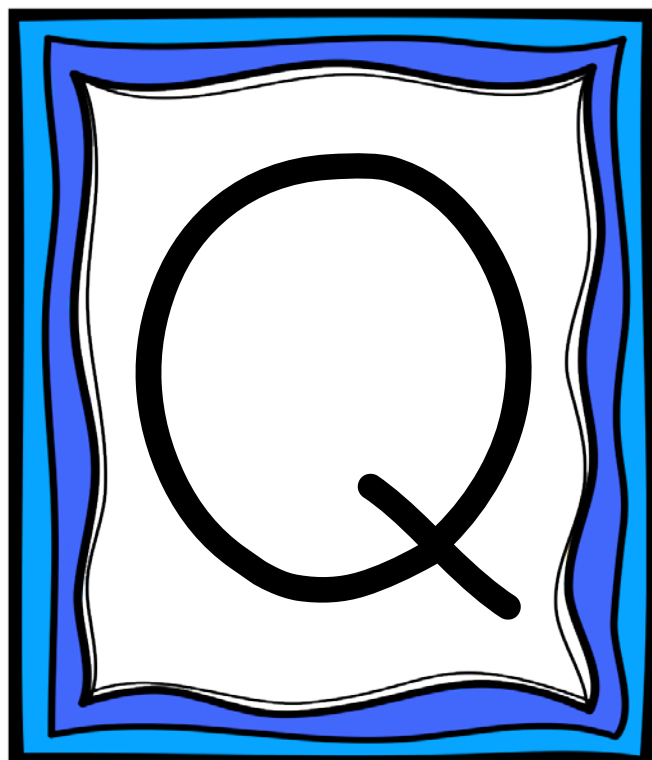
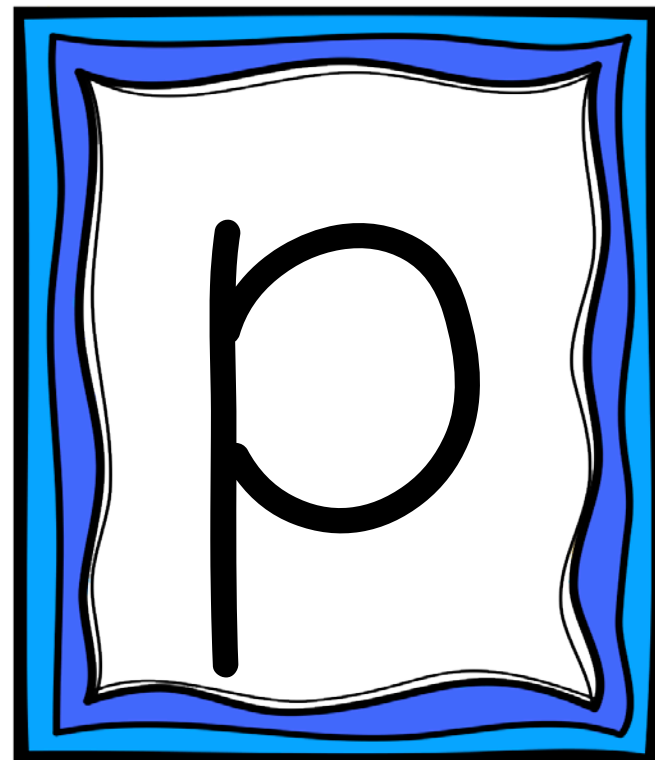
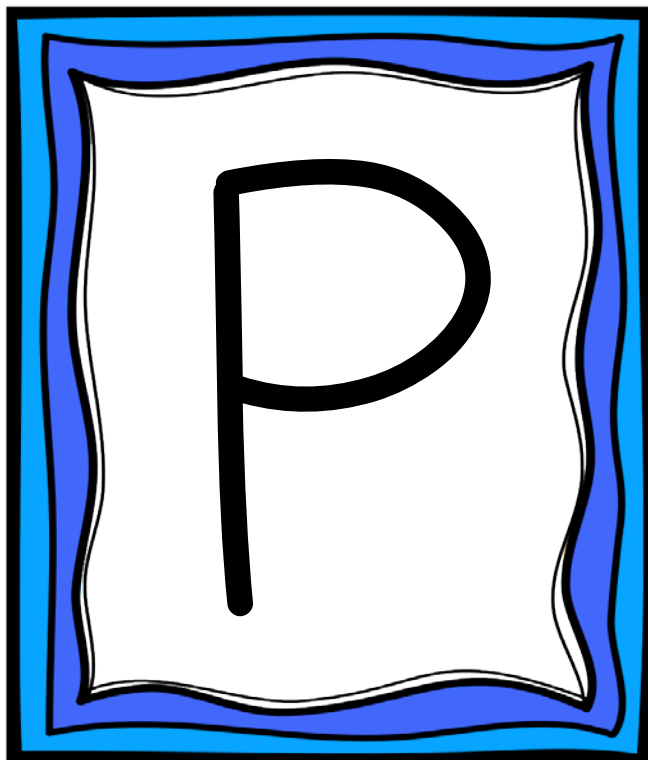
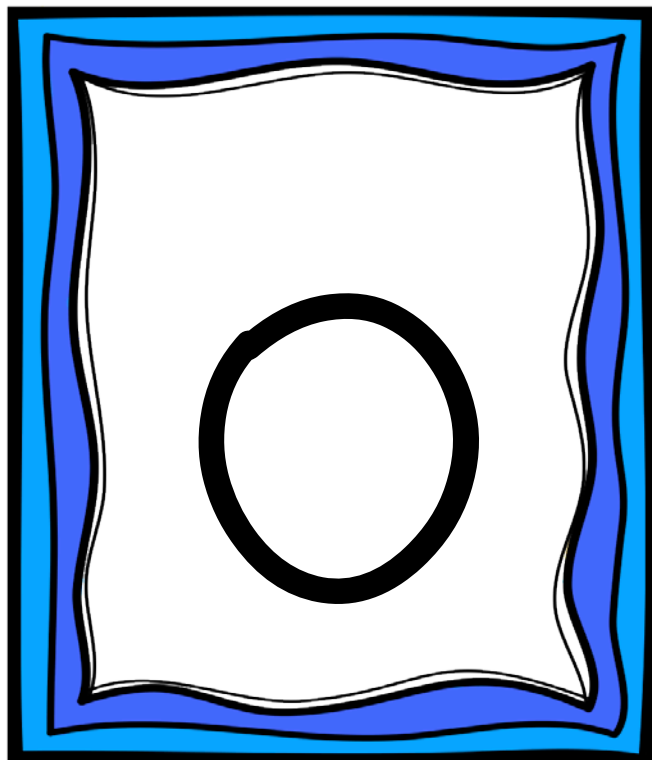
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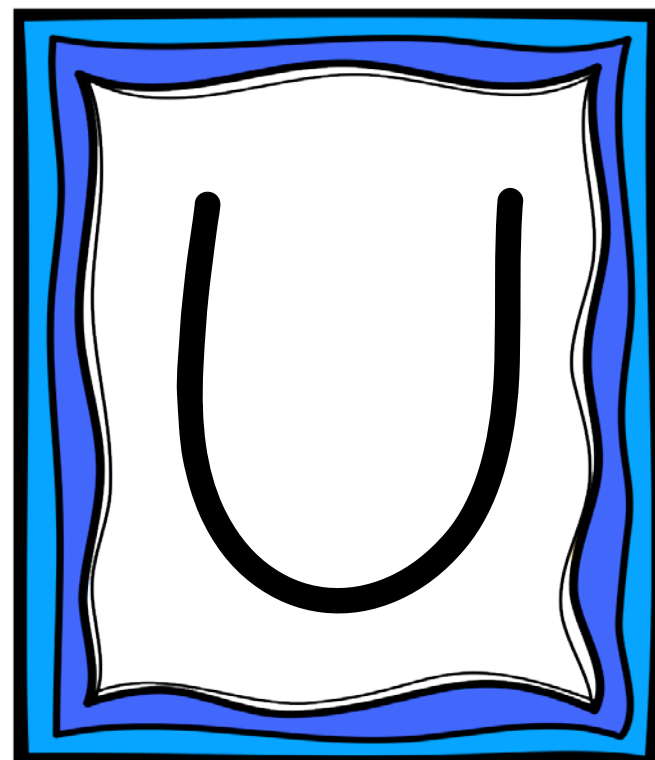
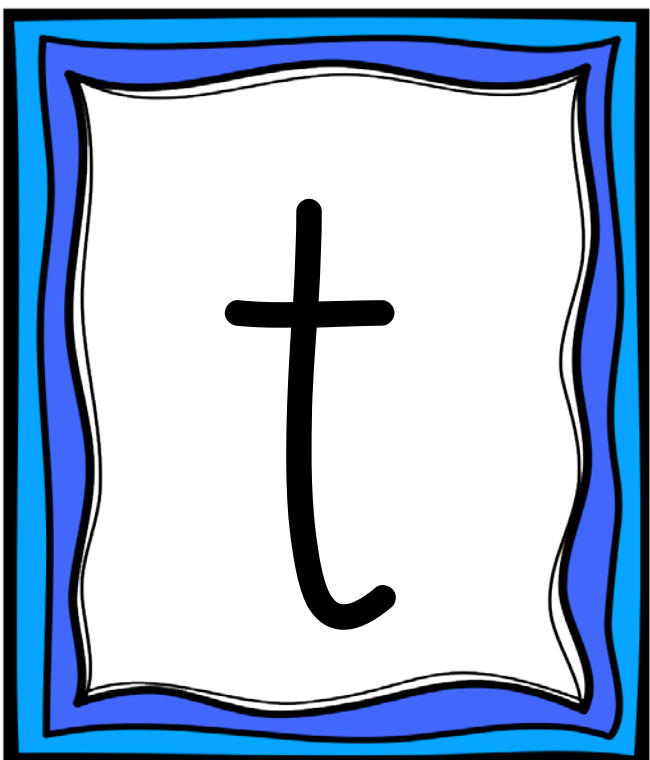
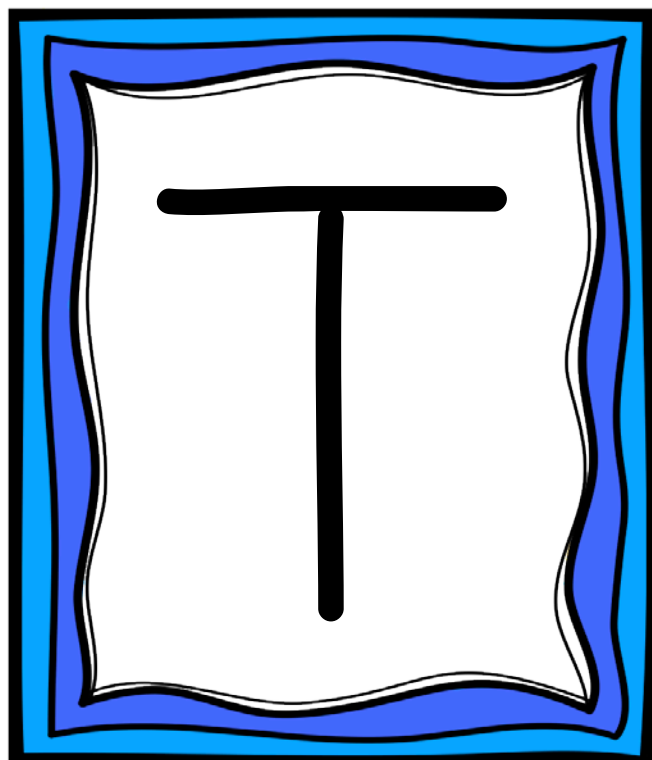
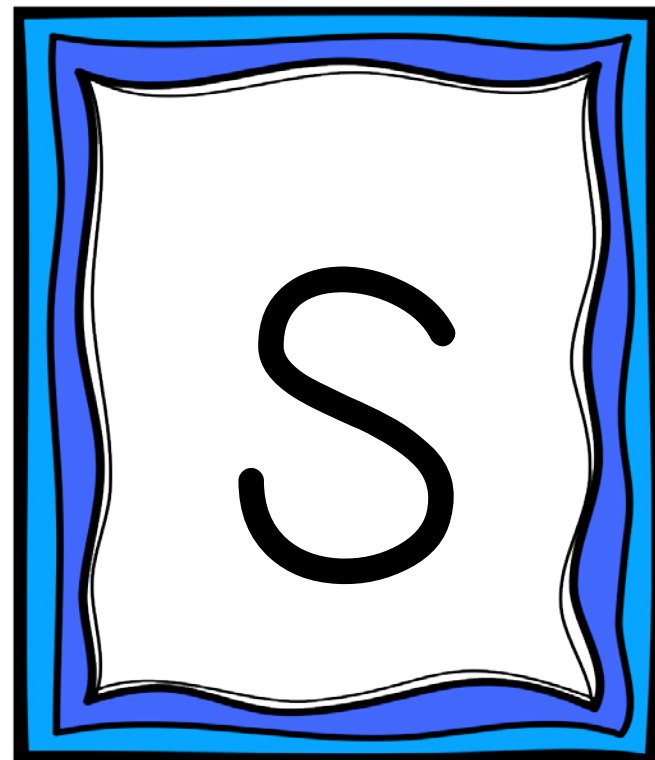
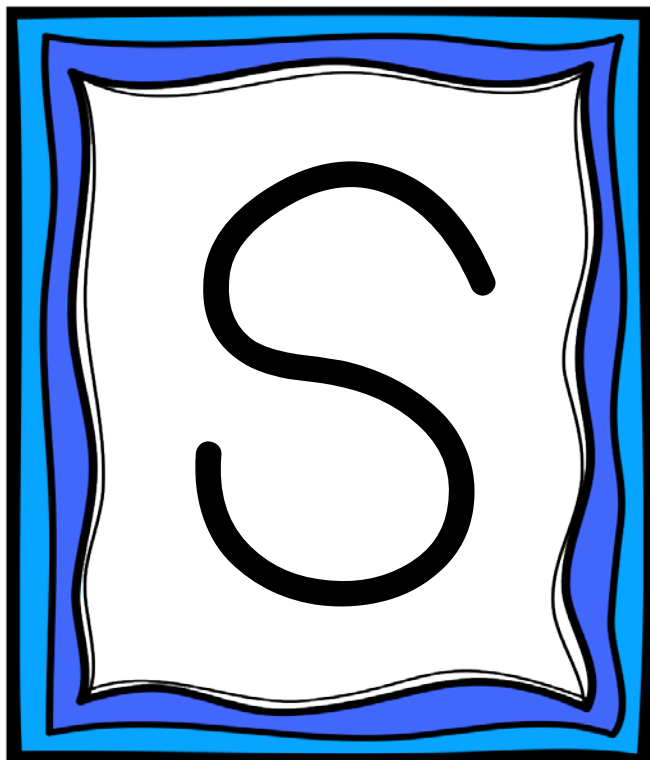
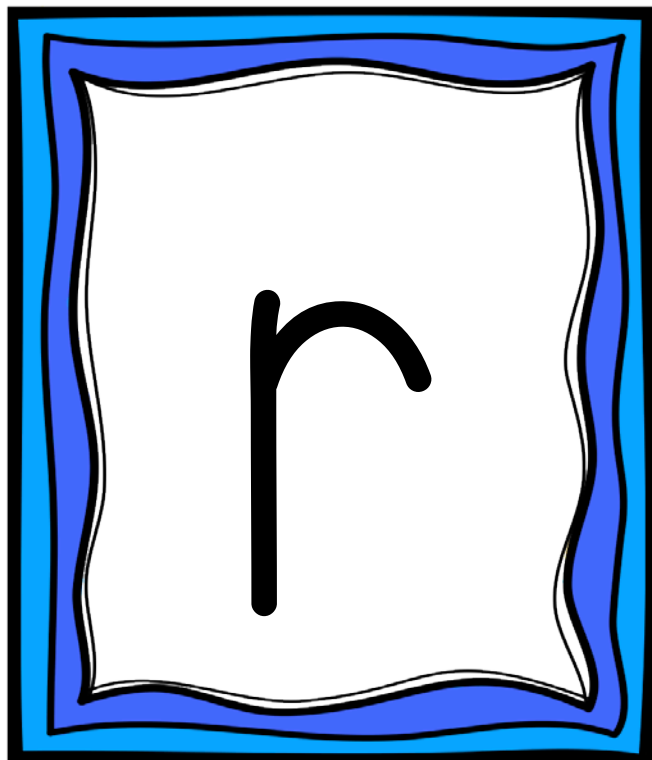
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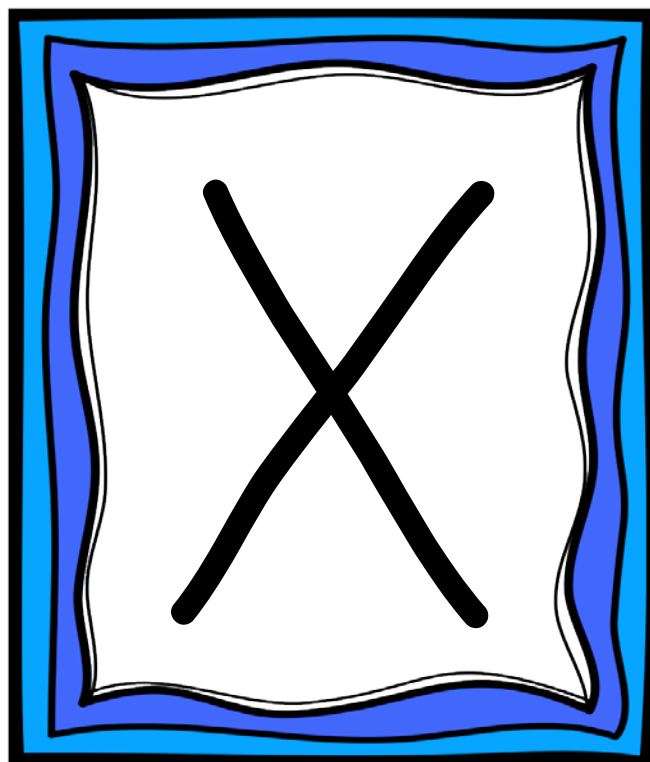
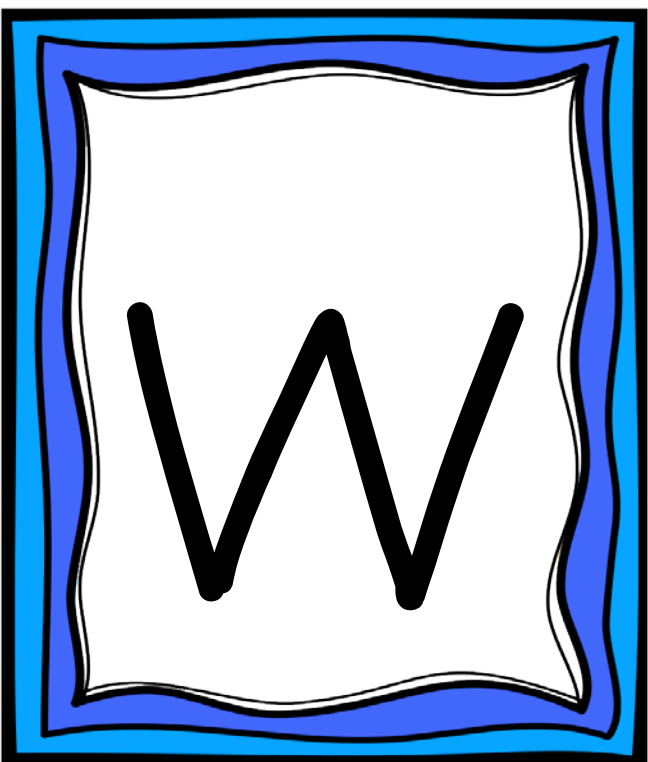
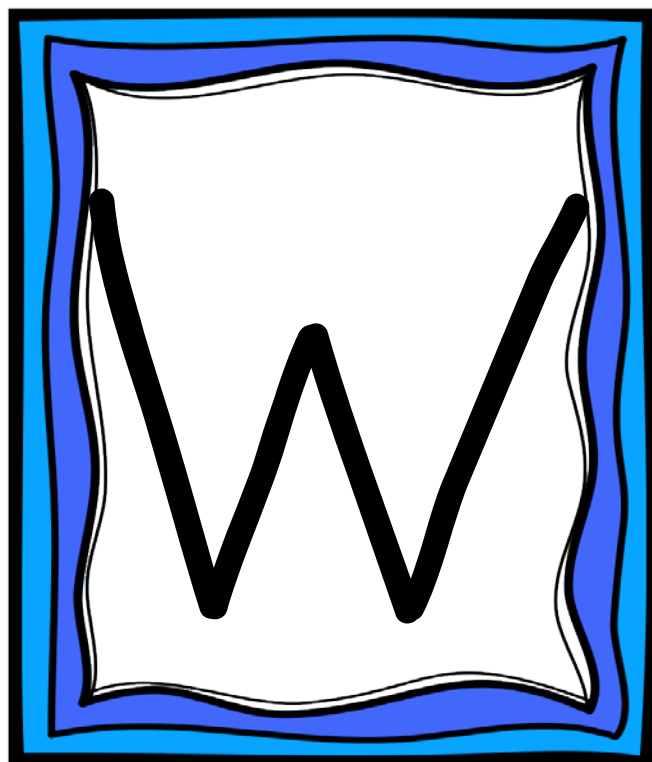
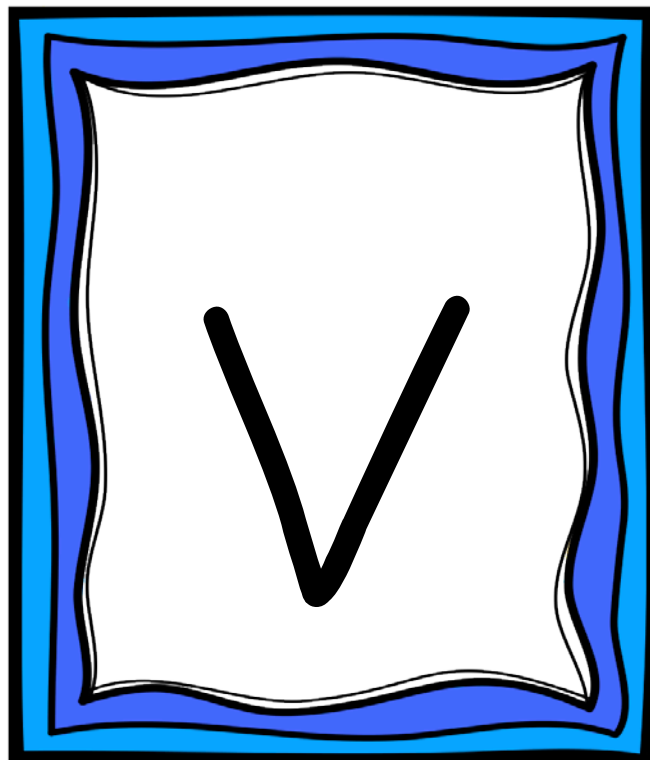
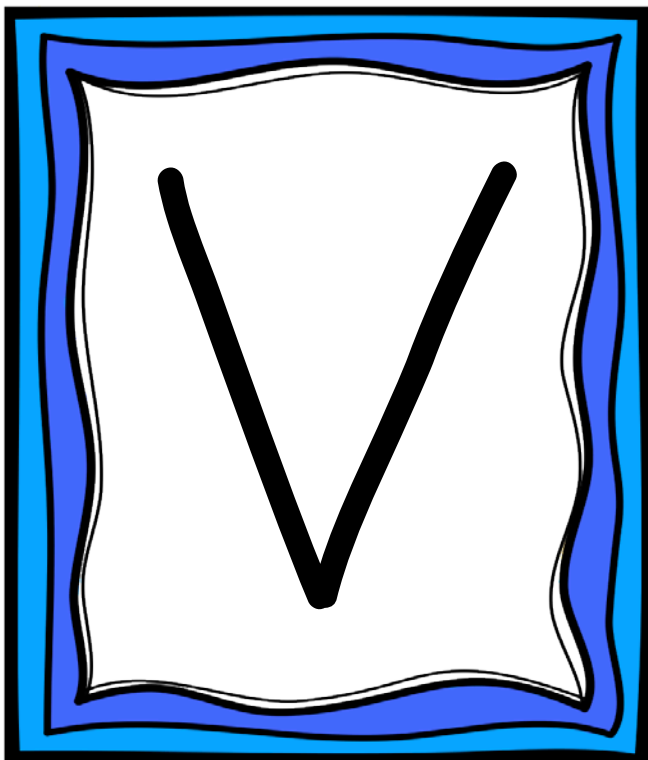
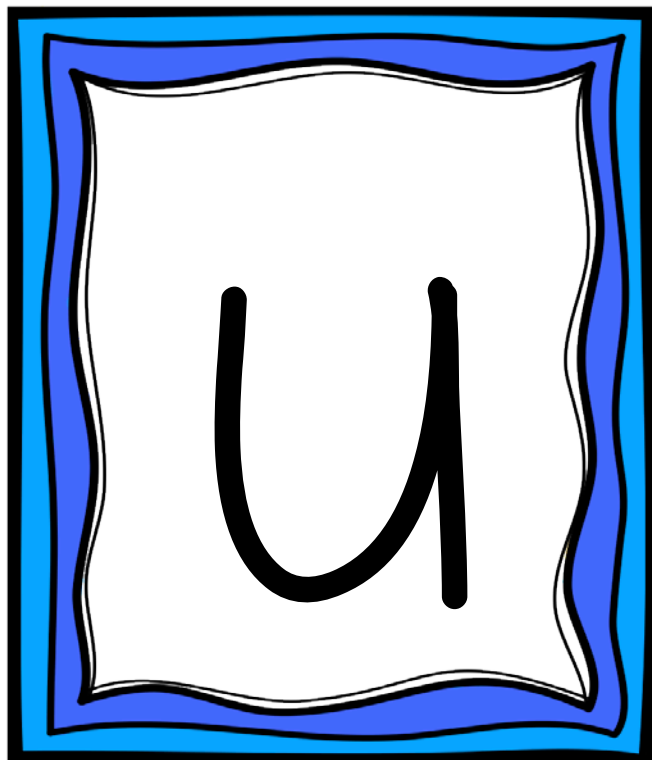
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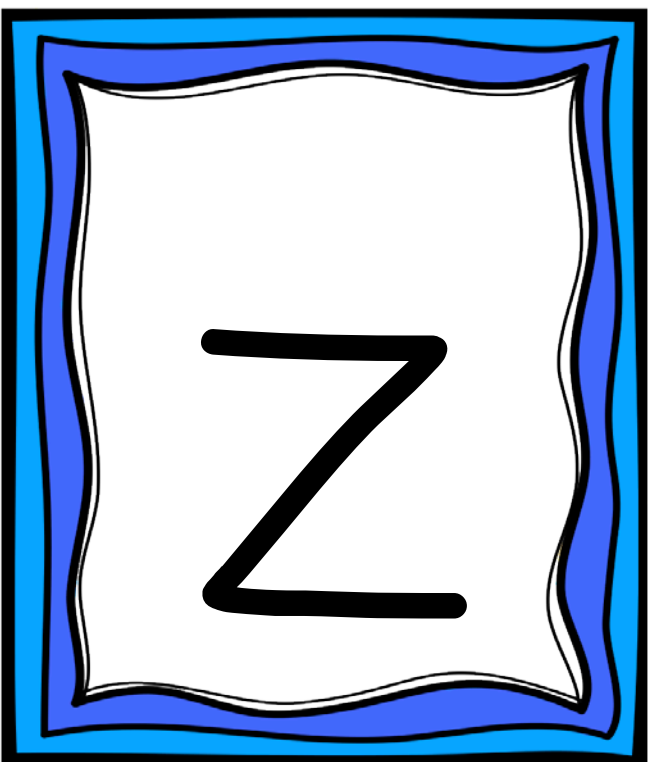
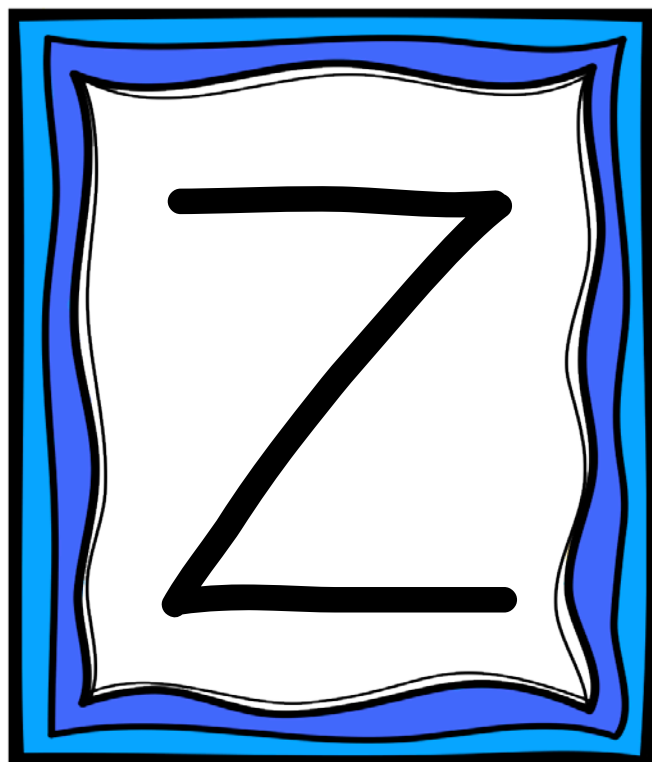
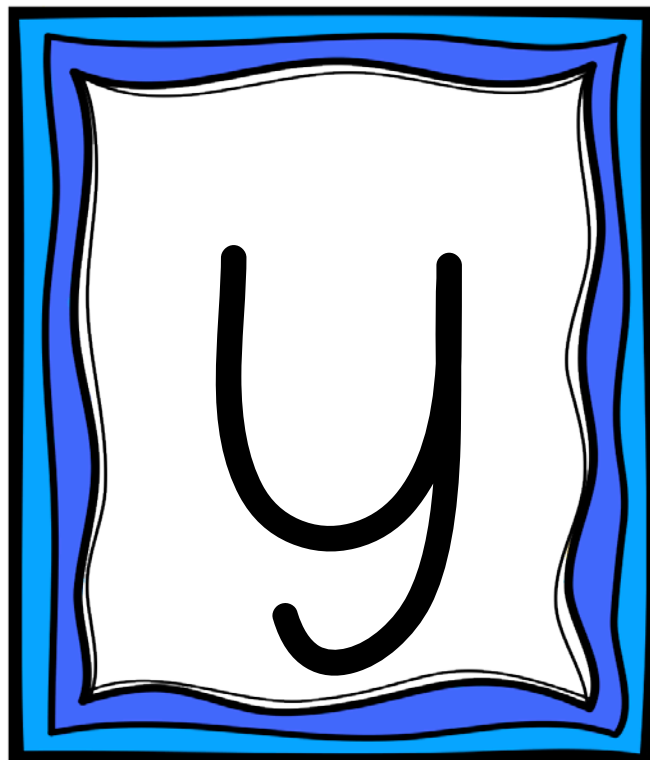
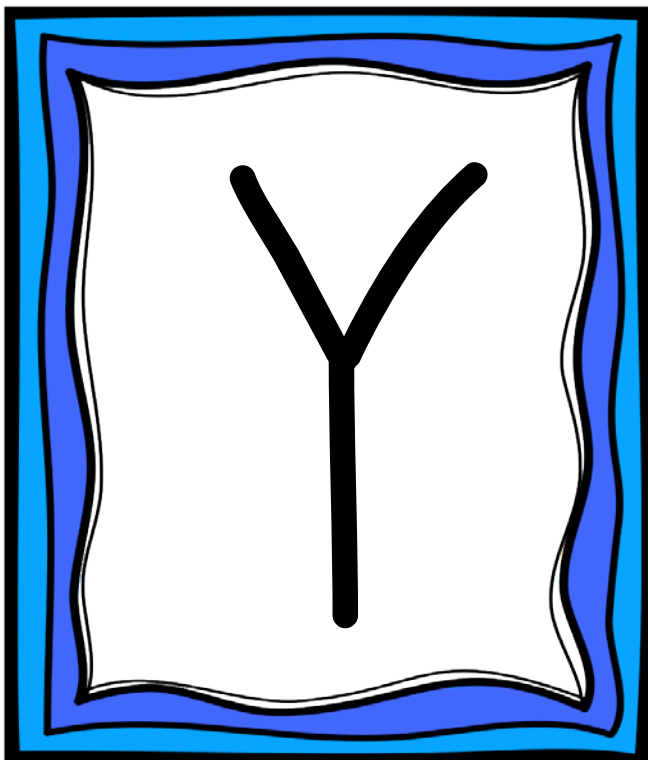
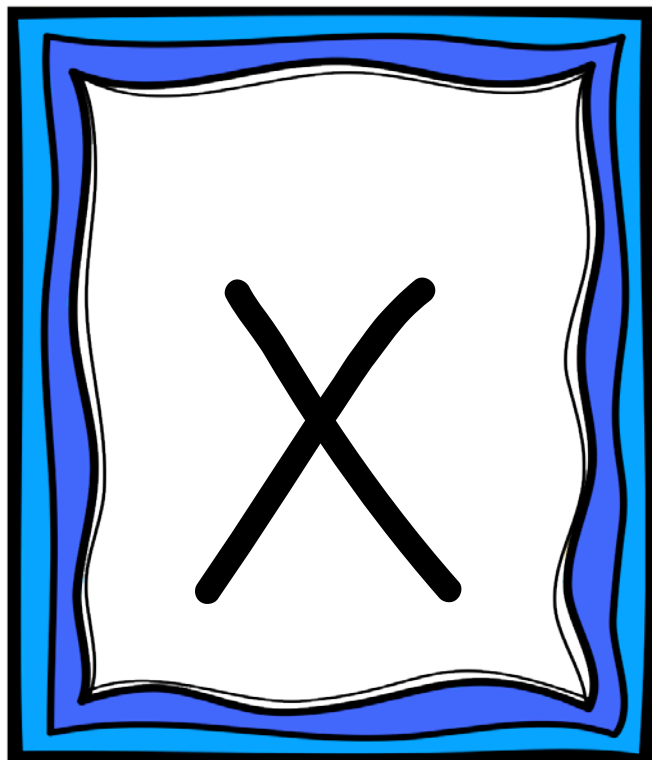












Phonemic Awareness in Pre-K

What is phonemic awareness?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and use the sounds of our language. This is NOT the same as phonics.

How can I help my child with phonemic awareness?

1. Read and make rhymes with your child. Say a word. Ask him/her to give a word that rhymes. Read nursery rhymes and rhyming books, like Dr. Seuss books. Ask your child to pick out the rhyming words.
2. Play games with your child. For example:
 - a. What is the first sound of "mom?" Repeat with other words.
 - b. Here are 2 words: "lemon" and "lake."
What is the first sound in both words?
 - c. Play with letter magnets. Talk about the sounds of the letters.
 - d. Play the name game. Students must create a sentence using their own name and a word that begins with the same letter. For example: My name is Jenny and I like jumping rope.



Phonics in Pre-K

What is phonics?

Phonics is a system for attaching sounds to written language. Letters and words are like a written code. In Pre-K, our focus is learning letters and their sounds. When students leave Pre-K, they should know each letter and the sound it makes.

How can I help my child with phonics?

You can assist your child with phonics at the Pre-K level by helping him/her learn the name of each letter and the sound it makes.

Here are some ideas for helping your child learn letters and sounds:

1. Teach your child the letters in his/her name. Ask for the sound of each letter.
2. Sing silly songs! For example, when singing "Old McDonald Had a Farm," replace the animal sounds with letter sounds.
3. Chocolate pudding finger painting: Give your child a container of chocolate pudding and a clean surface. Say a letter or sound and ask your child to write the letter with pudding.



Comprehension in Pre-K

What is comprehension?

Comprehension is the act of attaching meaning to words. Comprehension begins long before a child is able to read a book. At an early age, children begin to comprehend verbal communication. Comprehension of printed material begins with an adult reading aloud, even to a very young child.

How can we practice comprehension at home?

1. Ask questions! While reading, stop every once in a while to ask your child questions about what is happening in the story.
2. Dig deeper! When your child talks about what is happening in the story, ask deeper questions like: "Why do you think the character said that?" and "Where do you think they will go next?"
3. Give background knowledge! If you are about to read a story about a lion, talk about the time you saw the lions in the zoo. Your child's comprehension will be at a higher level if he/she already knows something about the topic.
4. Ask your child to draw a picture to show what he/she remembers from the story.



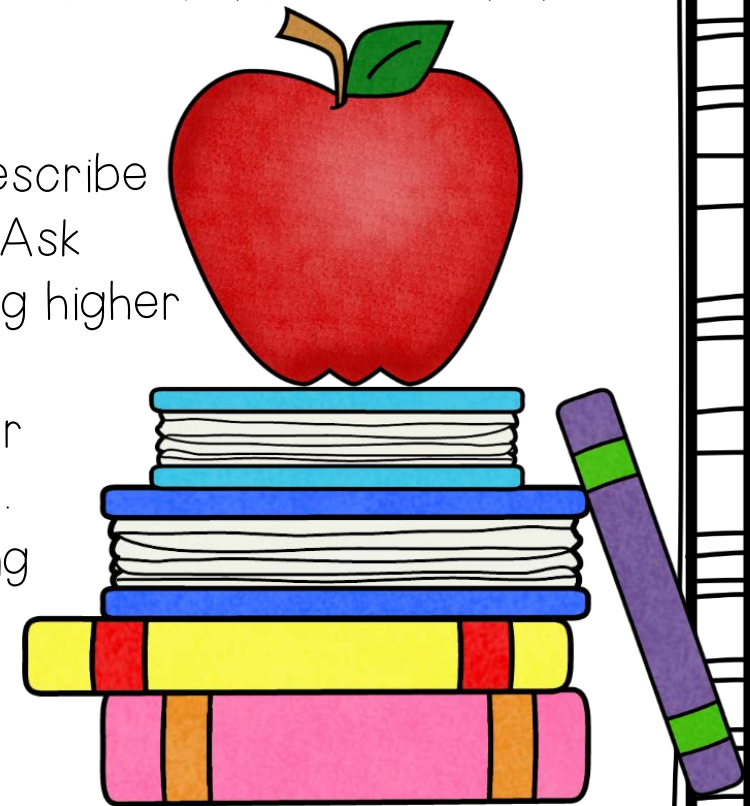
Vocabulary in Pre-K

What is vocabulary?

Vocabulary includes our knowledge of words and our ability to use words. Young children have oral vocabularies that are far bigger than their reading vocabularies. This means that they understand many more words than they can actually read.

How can I help my child's vocabulary improve?

1. Talk to your child! Children whose parents talk to them often and for extended periods tend to have larger vocabularies.
2. Ask your child to describe things in his/her world.
Example: After a visit to the park, ask your child to describe the play gym or tell how it felt to slide down the slide. Ask questions like "What did you do to make yourself swing higher on the swing?"
3. While reading together, pick out a few words that your child may not know. Discuss the words with your child.
4. Play the "I'm thinking of..." game. Example: "I'm thinking of a piece of clothing with a hood that keeps me warm when it's cold outside."



Fluency in Pre-K

What is fluency?

Fluency is the ability to read quickly and effortlessly. In Pre-K, we're working on learning letters and sounds. So, as your child can name more and more letters and sounds, we want him/her to be able to recall them effortlessly. Research tells us that students who can name letters quickly and easily from a random list of letters usually become good readers.

How can we practice fluency at home?

Once your child has learned the names and sounds of several letters, do "Super Speedy Letter Drills." All you need to do is draw a rectangle, and write 7-10 letters that your child knows. Write the letters in a random order. It is fine to use capitals, lowercase, or a mix of both. In one turn, ask your child to name letter names. In another turn, ask him/her to make the sounds of the letters. Your child should be able to name one letter per second, approximately.

"Super Speedy Letter Drills" Example:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | p | t | R | g | L |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|



Environmental Print

What is environmental print?

Environmental print includes signs, logos, and any familiar symbols that contain words. They are easily recognized by children.

Why is environmental print important?

Have you ever been driving down the street and your child suddenly started begging to go to McDonald's? It's a good chance that you passed a McDonald's restaurant and your child recognized the sign. Environmental print teaches children that words have meaning and these are some of the very first words they can read. These signs and logos are a good tool to use when helping kids recognize letters in words.

How can we practice with environmental print?

1. While cooking, ask your child to point out words that he/she knows. For example, "Rice-a-Roni" or "Milk."
2. While driving down the street, ask your child to point out signs that he/she can read. For example, "Taco Bell," "Chuck E. Cheese," or even traffic signs, like "STOP."
3. Create an environmental print collage. Ask your child to look through the newspaper, magazines, or household items for logos. Glue the logos to a sheet of paper and display the collage in your home.
4. As your child is learning letters, ask him/her to point out known letters in the environmental print collage.



Environmental Print

EXAMPLE



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What are Sight Words?

Sight words are words that are used most often in written text.

Beginning readers who become fluent in reading sight words will be at a tremendous advantage.

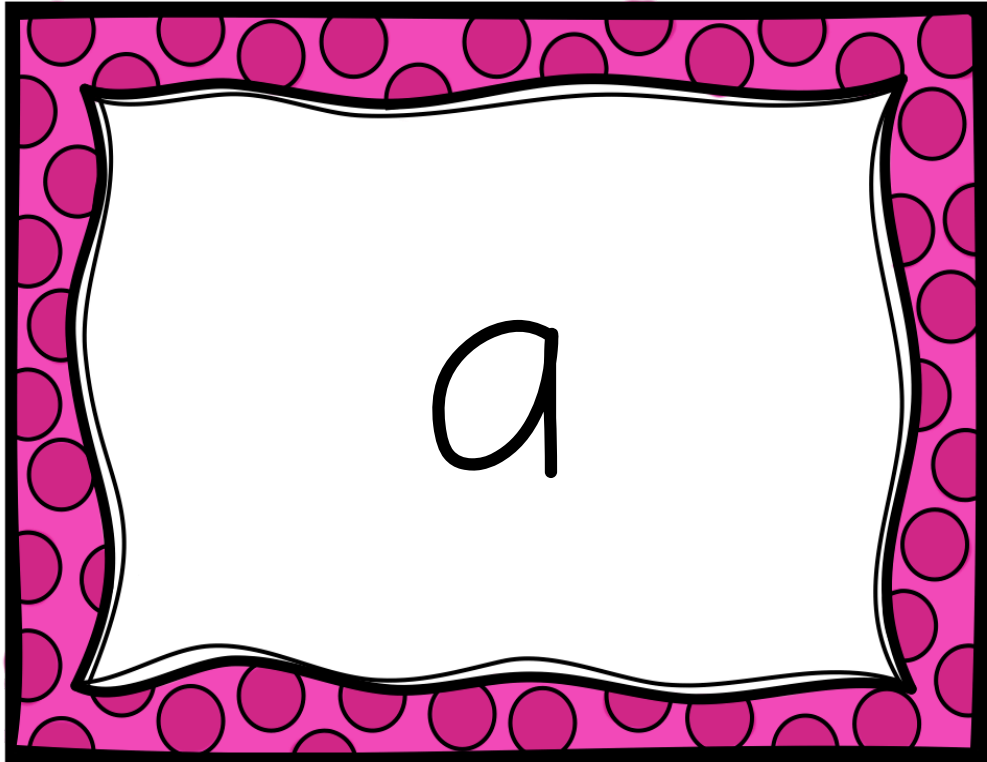
Sight words are usually words that cannot be "sounded out." This means that most sight words must be practiced, reviewed, and memorized by children. These sight words are already in your child's verbal vocabulary.

Basically, we are helping connect the sight word in your child's memory to the written form of the word. Start with these sight words: a, I, the, it, is, and, my, me, he, she, we, you.

How to help your child practice sight words:

- Flashcards
- Show your child a sight word and ask him/her to write it three times.
- Make 2 copies of each word. Play the game "Memory" with the sight words.





a



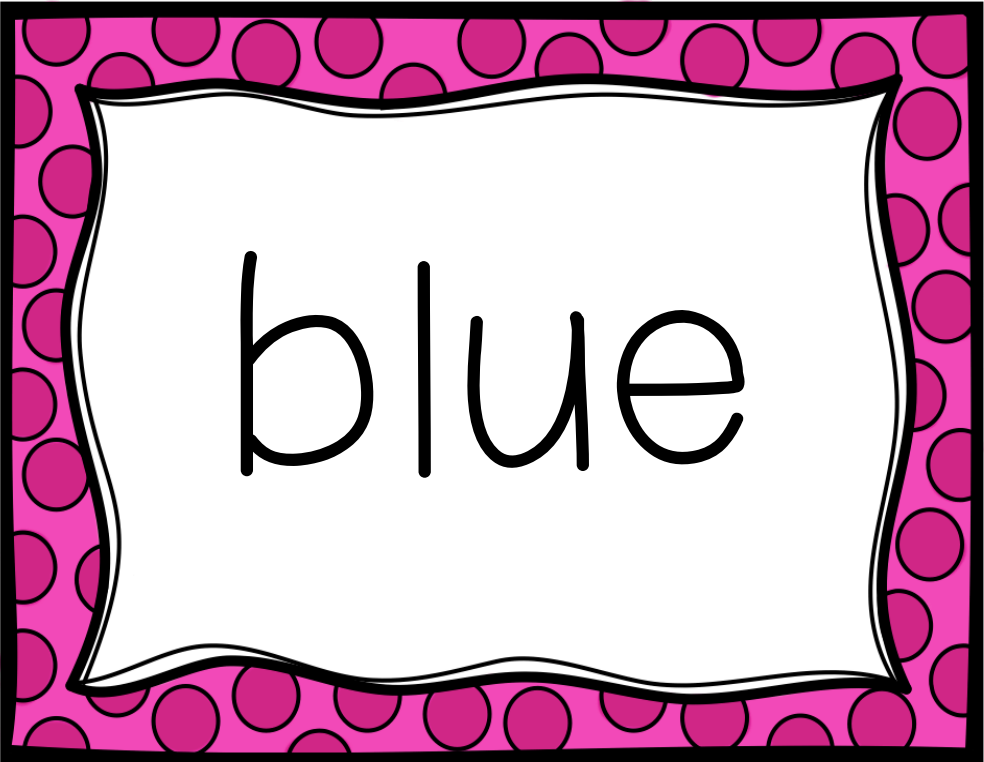
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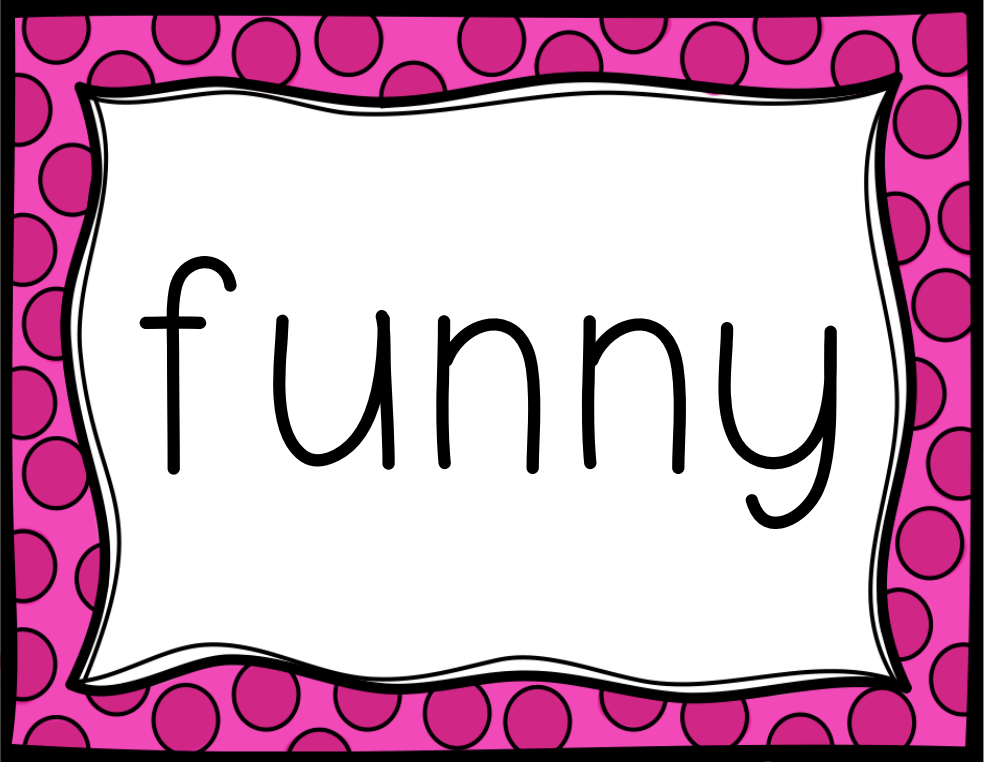
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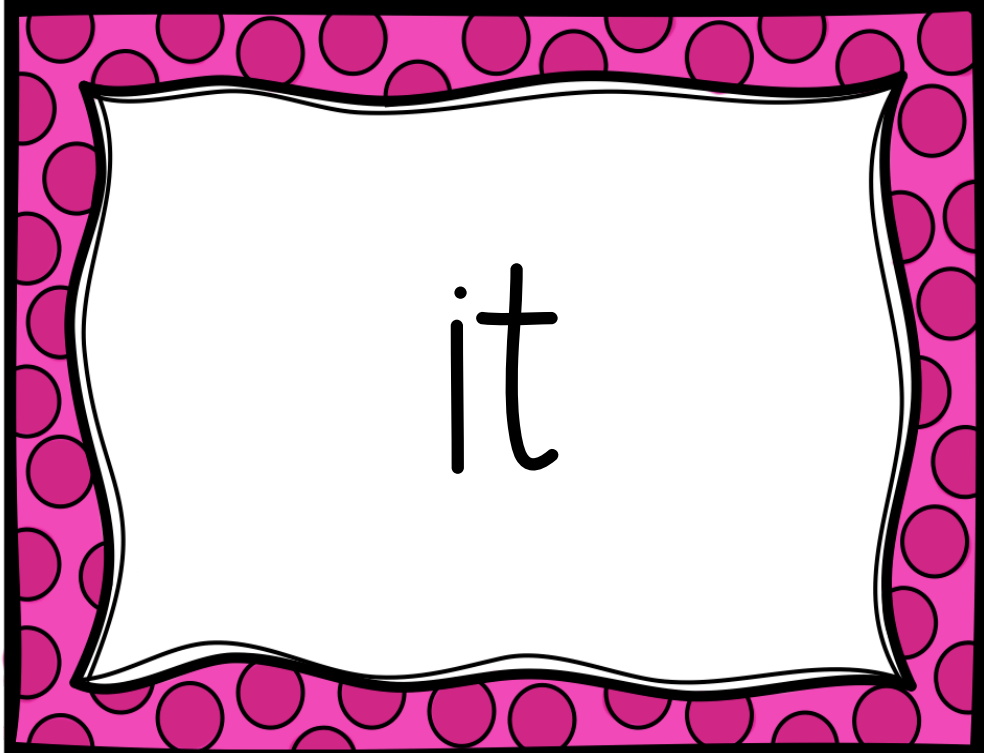
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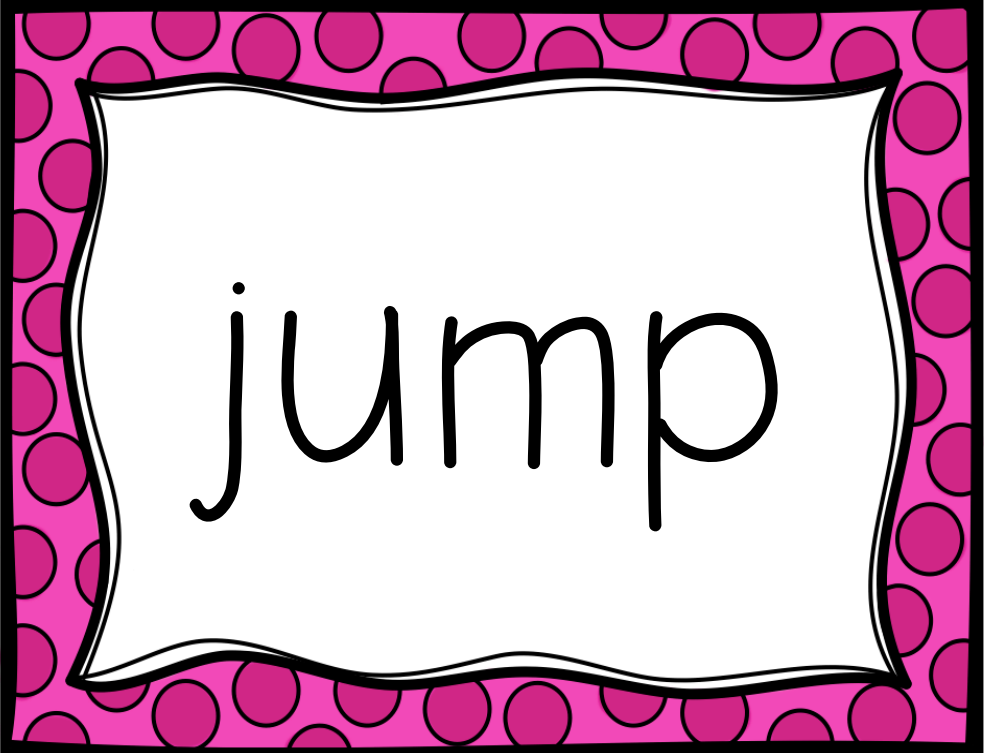
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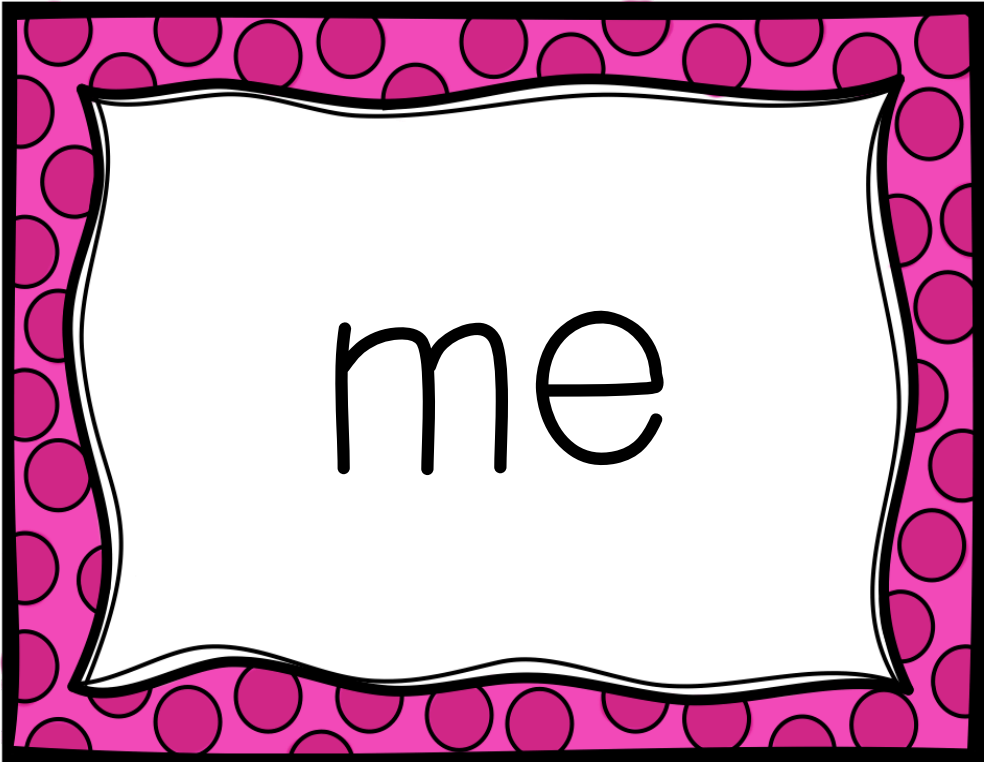
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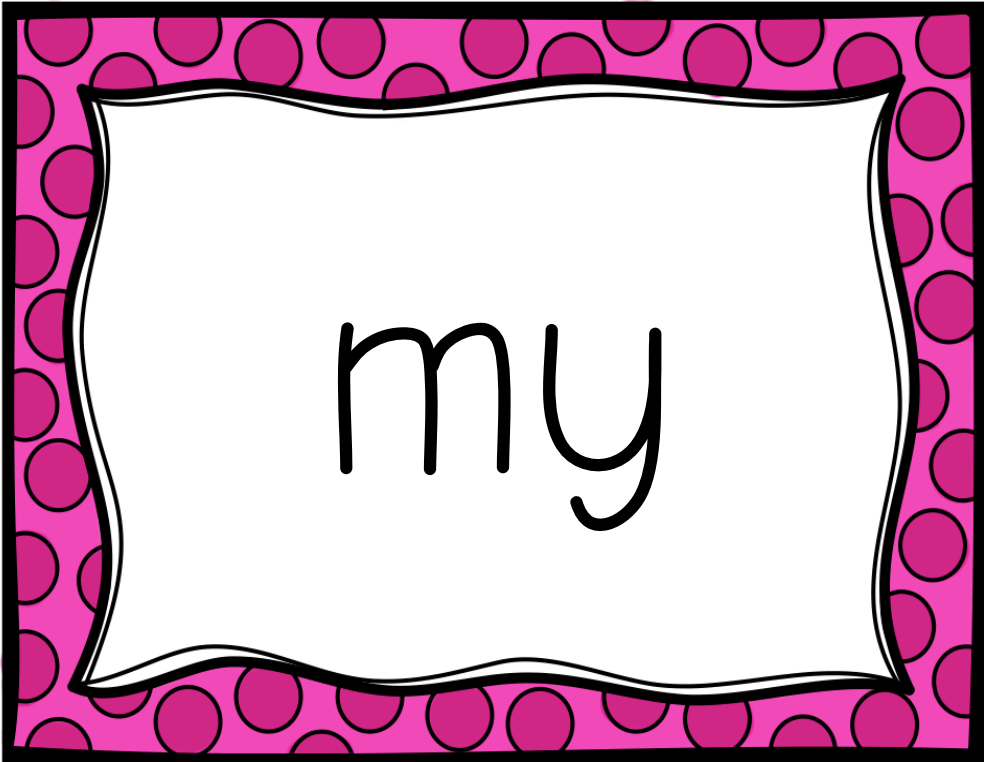
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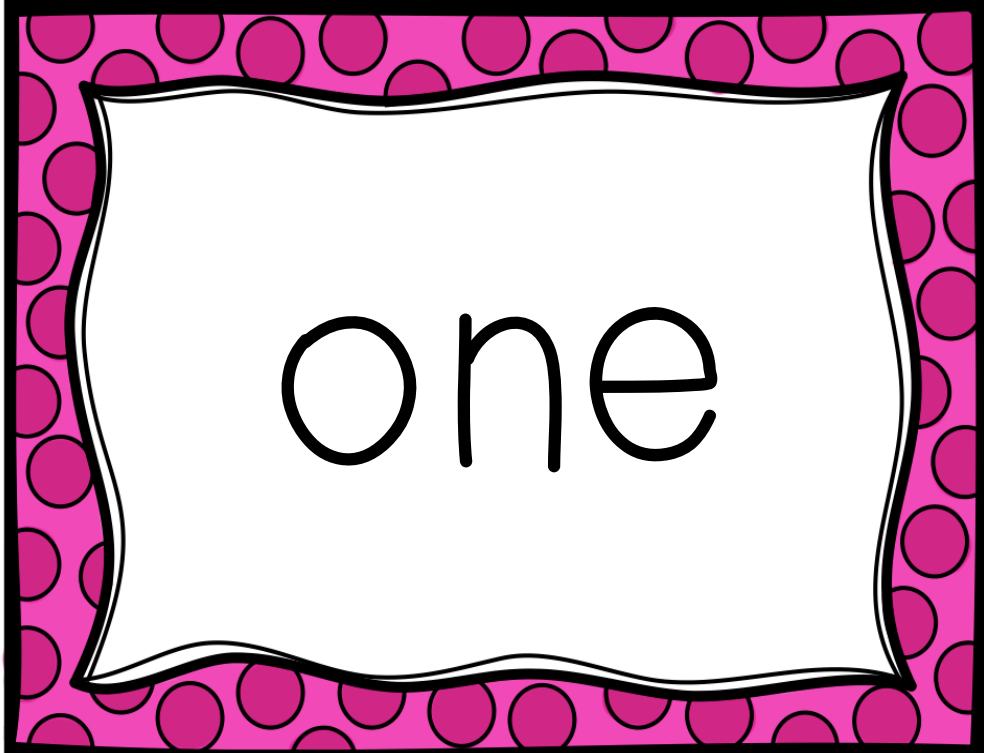
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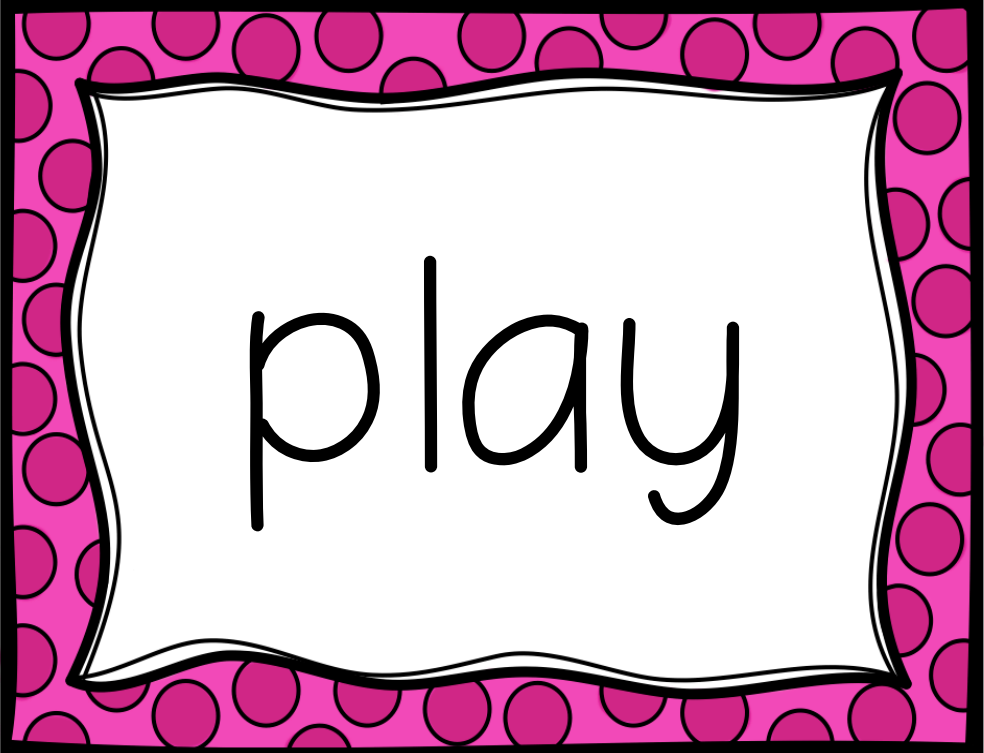
my

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of small black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

not

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of small black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

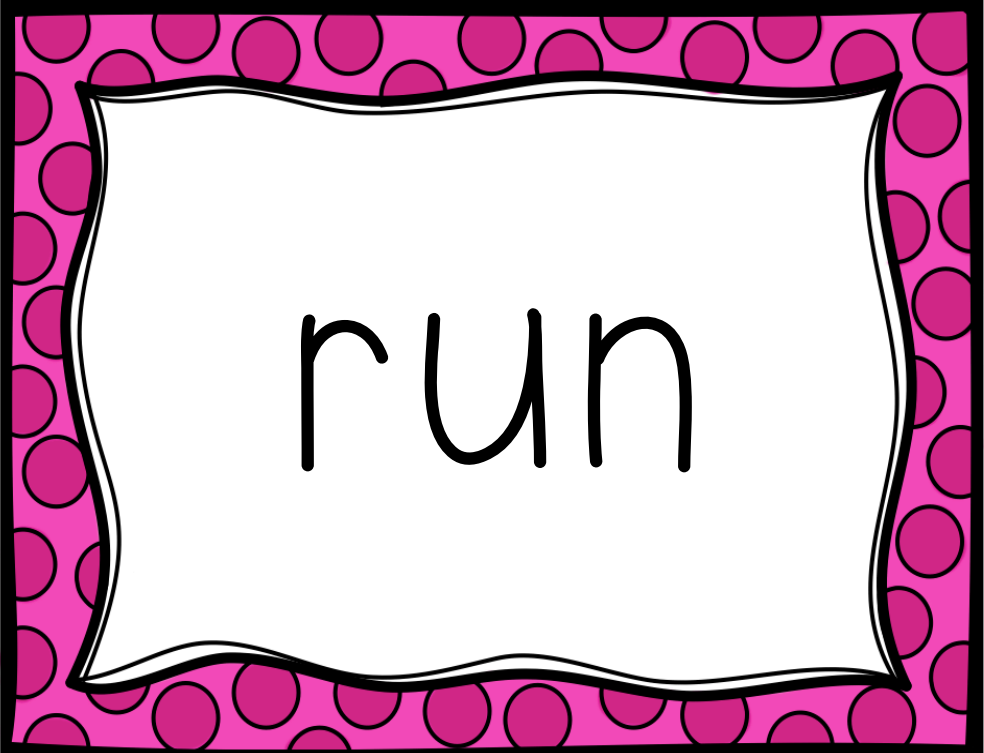
one

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of small black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

play

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of small black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

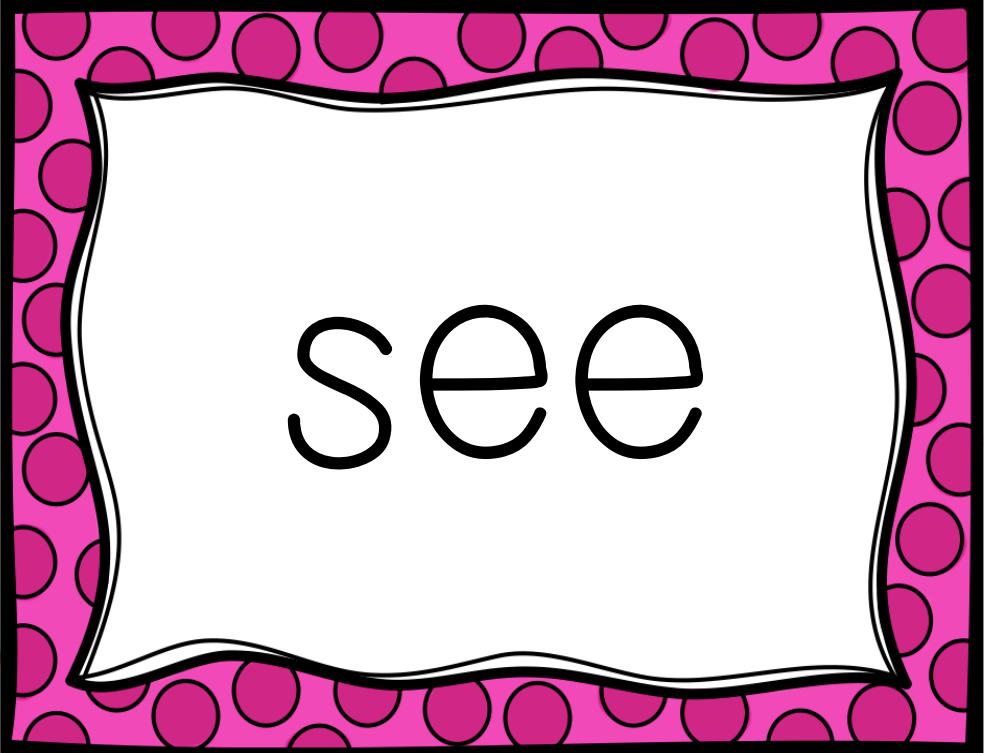
red

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

run

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

said

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

see

A rectangular card with a pink background and a pattern of black-outlined circles. In the center is a white rectangular area with a black, wavy border.

the



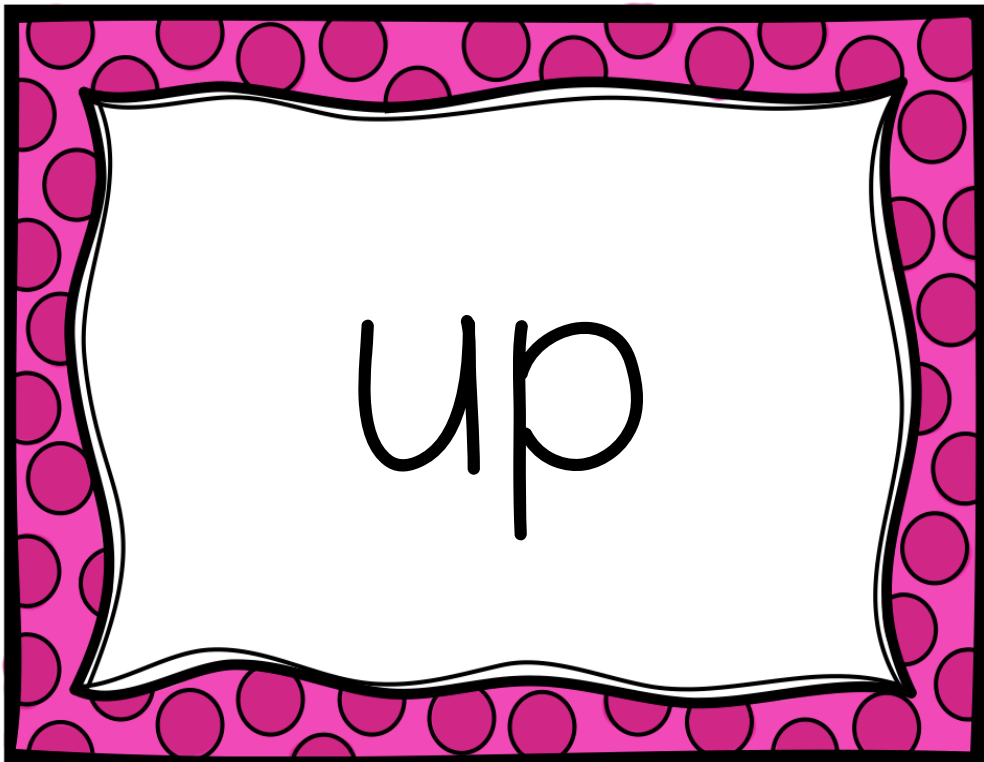
three



to



two



up




we



where



yellow



you

Reading Checklist

For Pre-K Students

It is important for your child to develop good reading habits now. You may notice your child “pretend” reading. This means that he/she isn’t actually reading the text. Your child is looking at the pictures and making up a story. This is a great way for kids to practice reading habits that will serve them well as they become early readers.

Watch your child “pretend read” a story to make sure he/she is developing good reading habits. You may observe your child over several reading sessions. If you have concerns about your child’s reading behaviors, gently correct him/her.

Example: “Watch Mommy read this page. Do you see where I started reading? We always start reading in the top corner of the page.”

Discuss any reading issues with your child’s teacher.

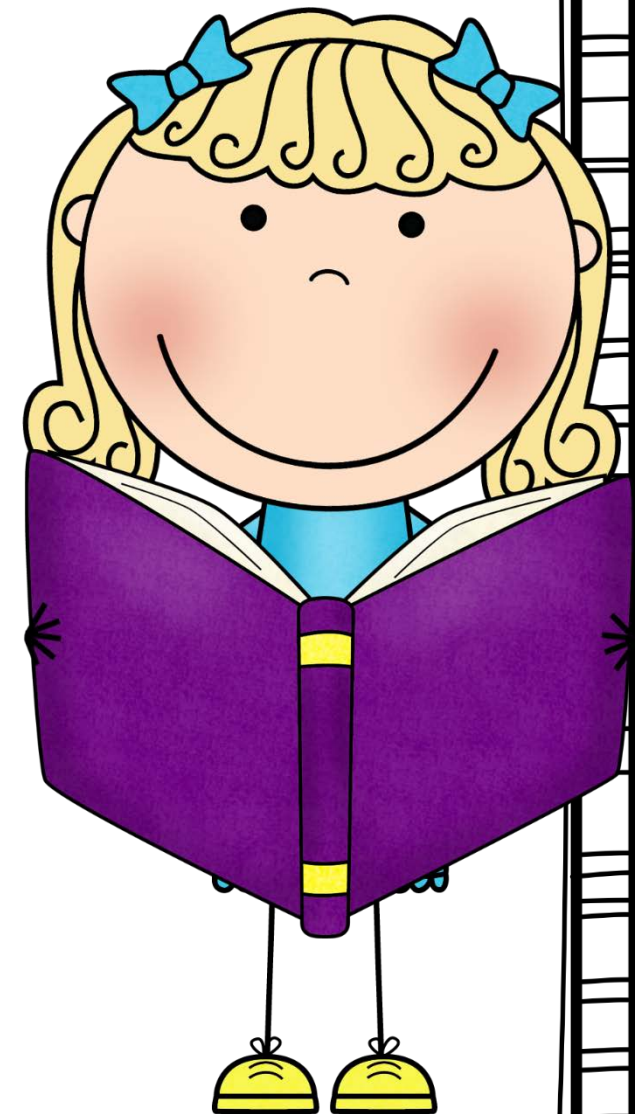
Use the following checklist to help you determine if your child is developing good reading habits.



Reading Checklist

For Pre-K Students

| Questions | Yes or No |
|--|-----------|
| Does my child hold the book correctly? | |
| Does my child turn the book's pages in the correct direction? | |
| Are my child's eyes moving across the words from left to right? | |
| Are my child's eyes moving from the top to the bottom of the page? | |
| Does my child recognize where to start and stop reading a page? | |



Just for Pre-K Parents

Dear Parents,

You are embarking on a special journey with your child... a reading journey! Through stories and books, you and your child will visit many other places and times.

Your child's teacher is here to guide you in your reading journey. Please ask for help when you need it.

Enjoy this special time with your child and always remember to read, read, read!

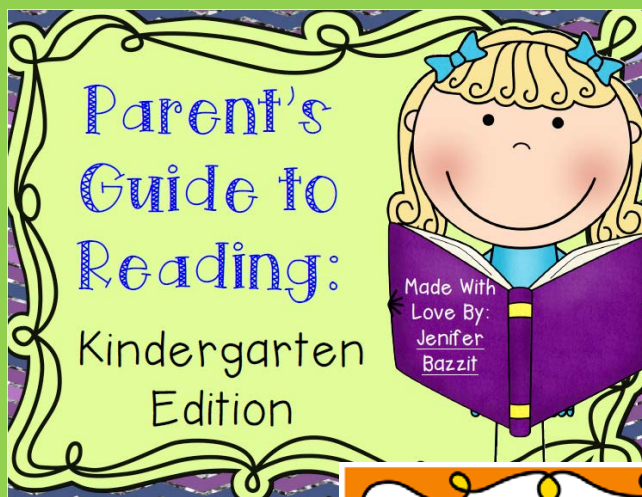


"Children are made readers
on the laps of their parents."
— Emilie Buchwald

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