



Primary Success Publications

Learn a Letter a Week



By Jean Roberts

Ideas for teaching the letters and letter sounds



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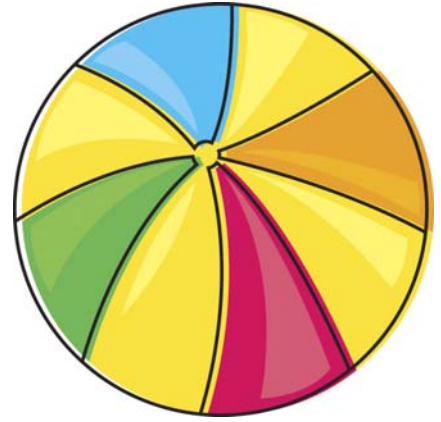
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Bb



Information

Sound

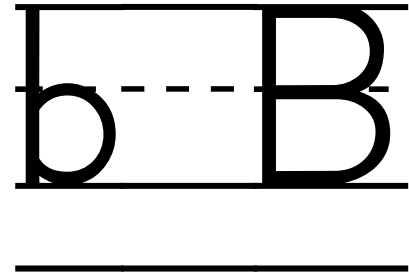
/b/ as in ball. Keep the sound very short and quick. (Not buh!) The sound is voiced.

Sound Association

the blowing bubbles sound

Letter Formation

To make the lower case b, begin at the top of the space and draw to the floor line. Begin the circle at the dotted line, at the top of the circle. Draw to the left touching the vertical line and the floor line as you make a circle.



To make the upper case B, draw the vertical line from top to bottom. Begin at the top of this line and make the top rounded part, touching the vertical line on the dotted line and then continue to make the lower rounded part, ending at the bottom of the vertical line.

As the letter 'b' is frequently reversed in reading and printing, teach it as a bat and ball. Also, the lower case 'b' is the 'B' with the upper curve erased.

Key Words:

bear, baby, bee, ball, book, boat, bike, bell, balloon, banana, boy, brother, bed, birthday, bubble, big

Story

Bruce Bear lives in a blackberry bush near the barnyard. Bruce is a big brown bear. Bruce likes to bake bread. He likes to eat beans, bananas, biscuits and berries. He loves to chew bubble gum. Bruce like to play basketball and baseball. He bounces a big blue ball in the barn.

Praise

Beautiful! The Best! Bravo!

Teaching the letter Bb and the /b/ sound

Go through the following steps daily:

Review all the letters and sounds previously taught (see the preface).

Introduce the letter Bb and talk about the 'big' or capital B and the 'small' or lower case b.

Discuss the sound /b/ and the fact that the sound is different from the letter name. Keep the sound short - cut it off with imaginary scissors.

Say, "B says /b/ as in 'bear'. Have the children repeat this.

Show the children how to form the letter, both upper and lower case. Talk about making the 'bat' first and the 'ball' second.

Trace the letter - in the air, on the carpet, on desks and tables, on a friend's back, in a sand tray, and on many other tactile surfaces. As the letter is formed, the children should be saying the /b/ sound so they can see, hear and feel the letter. Make sure the children are forming the letter correctly.

Teach the sound association.

List object words beginning with the /b/ sound. As the children give them to you, draw pictures on the chalkboard or a chart to illustrate.

Make 'B' and 'b' body letters on the floor, using several students. Have these students make the /b/ sound.

At the end of the lesson, review the letter name, sound, associations, key word and letter formation.

Activities

Each day do one or more of the following activities:

Tactile Association

Feel or do projects with brown and black beans (seeds or dried), buttons, bubble wrap, band-aids, balloons.

Make Tactile Letters

- Glue beans, birdseed, bows (or bow pasta), bears (teddy graham crackers or gummy bears) or buttons to letter outline.

- Cut the letter B and b from bubble wrap.

Songs and Games

"Baa, Baa, Black Sheep", "Baby Bumblebee"

Play Bingo, "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button", bowling.

Barney tape

Watch 'Beauty and the Beast' if suitable.



Art Ideas

- Build a structure with blocks.
- Make butterflies - Trace a butterfly pattern on a 12" x 18" piece of construction paper. Students cut out pattern and drip paint onto one half of the butterfly. Then fold the butterfly, press it together and open it to reveal a print that is the same on both halves. Orcut butterfly shape from two sheets of waxed paper. Students place wax crayon bits onto one sheet of the waxed paper. Using a warm iron press the two sheets together. These make lovely suncatchers. Or trace each child's hands with the fingers together and cut them out. The hands are the wings. Make a simple butterfly body between the hands and colour the butterfly.

- Make bees - The letter B could be the wings of a bee. For a big bee attach the letter B to a big blown-up balloon.

- Make thumbprint bumblebees. Have students press their thumbs onto a black ink pad and then onto a white sheet of paper. Use markers to help students draw features for the baby bumblebees.



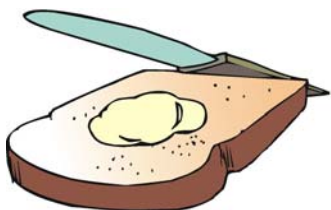
- String beads and buttons to make necklaces.
- Paint a picture with different shades of blue.
- Make blue birds with circles.....
- Make brown bears
- Make beach balls
- Make baskets
- Bubble prints - cut out or draw a very large B or b shape. Add blue food colouring to bubble liquid and blow bubbles. Catch the bubbles on the B shape and they make bubble prints. Lots of 'b' experiences in this exercise!

Food

Bread, buns, burgers, broccoli, bacon, beans, beets, beef, biscuits, blueberries, butterscotch, bananas, bagels, brownies, bologna

Make 'banana boats' - Cut a section of the banana lengthwise. Fill with either peanut butter or berries.

Make 'bunny biscuits' - Use frozen or canned biscuit mix. Give each child with two biscuits. Cut one biscuit in half to make the ears and pinch them onto the bunny's head (the full biscuit). Use raisins or nuts for the nose and eyes and coconut for the whiskers. Bake according to package directions.



Eat bread and butter

- Make butter. Put whipping cream into a jar. Pass it around the room, letting each child have a turn shaking it. When it becomes like whipped cream, add salt and a big of yellow food colouring. Keep shaking until a lump of butter appears. Rinse the butter in cold water until the water is clear and eat it on bread!

Poem

Brown bears, black bears,
Polar bears white,
Billy is my teddy bear
And Billy doesn't bite!

Other Activities

- List things that are blue. Have a 'blue' day when everyone wears blue and does blue activities.

- Make a "Big Book".

- Blow blue bubbles.

- Bounce balls.

- Make a big beautiful blue balloon.

- Bring baby pictures to school

- Blow up balloons

- Play basketball using nerf balls and a trashcan for the basketball goal.

- Make binoculars - Use two empty toilet paper rolls per child. Glue the rolls together to form binoculars. Punch holes at one end on the outside of the rolls and tie a string from one to the other so binoculars may hang around neck.

- Learn about bees

- Learn about bugs, birds

- In the gym - do exercises with beanbags, go backwards, bounce balls

- Talk about riding the bus and bus safety.

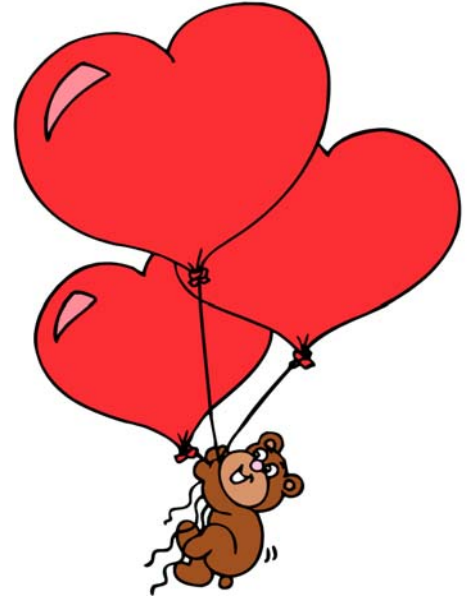
- Brainstorm things that are big, beautiful, or best.

- Have a backwards day. Wear some clothes backwards, practice walking backwards, etc.

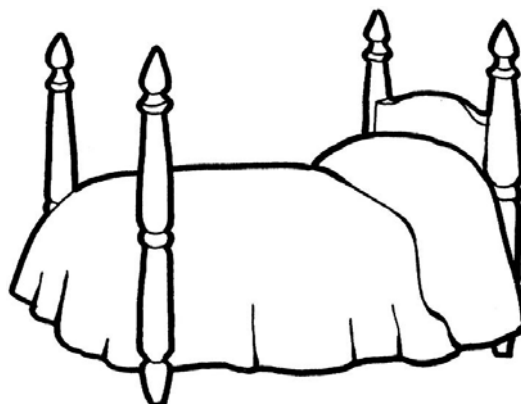
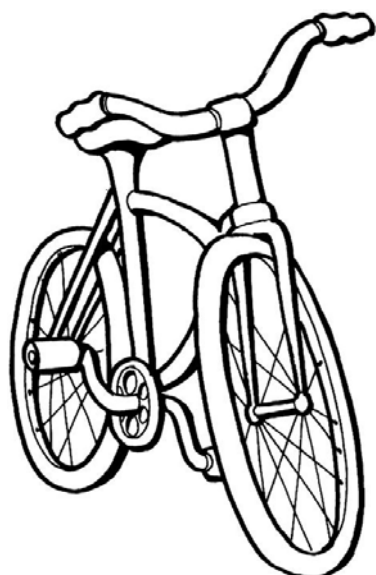
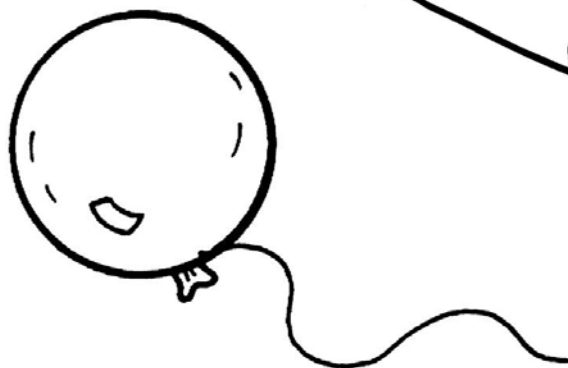
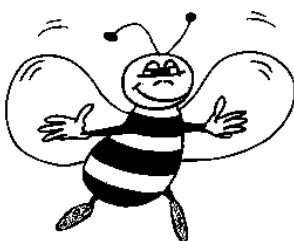
- Discuss about the life cycle of the butterfly.

- Talk about real bears and list some facts about each kind of bear. Show pictures of real bears.

And, of course, read books and more books!



Bb



Bb





b



B