

Stylized Alphabet Teaching Cards

Each letter is stylized to reflect its shape & sound, accompanying phrase emphasizes letter sound. Hand motions, teaching tips, & follow-up activities are on the reverse side of each Alphabet Teaching Card.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

Before writing whole letters, practice these simple shapes and names:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1] Thin Man: | 4] Cave: C |
| 2] Table: — | 5] Curve:) |
| 3] Slide: \ and / | 6] Hump: U |

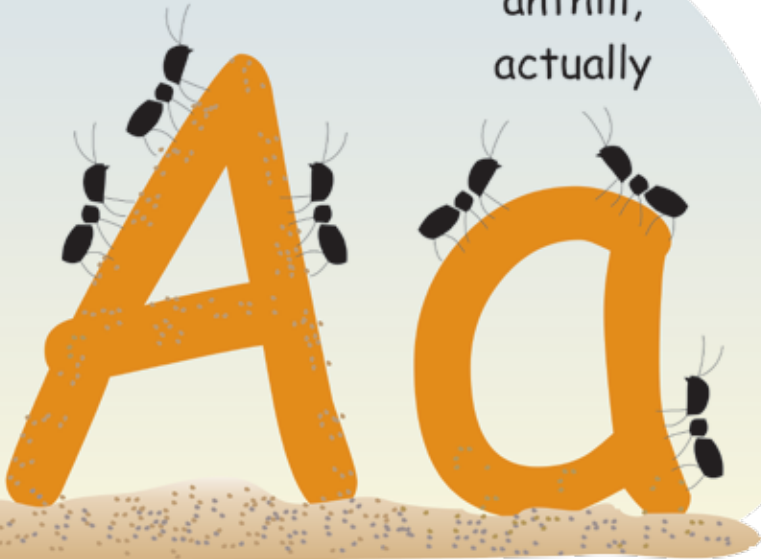
TIPS FOR TEACHING:

1] **THIN MAN:** Stand up very straight and tall and have children copy you. Say, "Start with your pencil at the top of the thin man's head and draw a line straight down to the floor!" As you say this, demonstrate on your own body, using your pointer finger as the pencil and drawing an imaginary line from head to toe. Have the children copy your motions and words. Then repeat using paper and pencil.

2] **TABLE:** Draw the children's attention to a table or desk top and have them feel how very flat it is. Show them that if the table is tilted, your pencil will roll off. Practice "drawing" a very flat table in the air, then repeat with pencil and paper.

3] **SLIDE:** Remind children of sliding down a sliding board. You start at the top. You sit down, then you slide at an angle to the ground! Slides can be going in different directions. Practice together making your hand "sit down" at the top of a slide, then swoop and slide your hand down to the ground. Move now to pencil and paper. Practice drawing a slide away from you, and a slide toward you.

Amy's ants on an anthill, actually



Big Bob and Ben Bear bounce by



Before You Begin, Continued:

4] CAVE: To make a cave with right handed children, have them make a cave shape with their left hand, using thumb and pointer finger to make the curve. They can initially draw the cave inside this structure of their hand by putting their pencil at the tip of their pointer and then going on around til they reach the tip of their thumb. Lefties can stick their pointer finger out onto the paper, pretend it is a bear, and draw the cave around it, starting with the top of the thumb. Practice doing this together in the air, then move to paper and pencil. See illustrations on inside, back cover.

5] CURVE: For the curve, reverse the directions exactly from number 4, depending on if the child is right or left-handed.

6. HUMP: Have children jump ahead a short step to simulate what they are going to draw with their pencils. Point out, of course, that they start on the ground, jump up and forward, then land back on the ground! Practice together, then move to doing it with paper and pencil.

Please refer to tips on writing the categories of letters, including tricks to help children form letters correctly (not backwards). Find the card in this set titled "Categories of Letters."

Bb

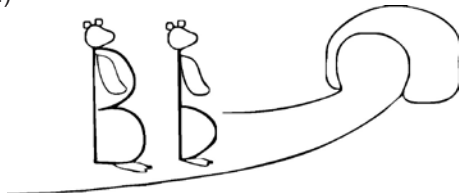
WRITING:

Uppercase: "Make a thin man. Put your pencil back on top of his head and make a curve to touch his belly button. Next, bounce back out to make a curve that touches his toes."

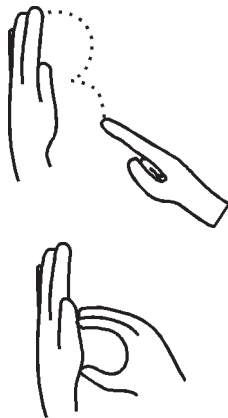
Lowercase: "Make a thin man. Put your pencil on his belly button and make a curve that touches his toes."

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Let the children make their B's and b's into bears and draw a cave nearby that they live in. Point out that their bellies both point away to the right. It is as though they are taking a walk both facing the same way. You may choose to have the children practice walking like B's do... all in a line with their bellies all going the same way. (D's do not do this, as they will soon find out!)

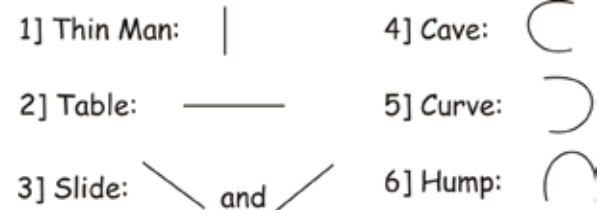


Hand Motions:



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Aa

WRITING:

Upper case: "Start on the ground, and climb to the top of the hill (make a slide going up and away from you), then sit down and slide down to the ground (make a long slide going down away from you). Next, make a table straight through the middle". Or "Climb up, slide down, then make a table through the middle."

Lowercase: "Start by making a cave, but instead of leaving the door open, make your pencil go all the way back up to the top to close the opening. Then without lifting your pencil, come straight back down to the ground (make a thin man)."

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Give the children a sheet of paper and crayons. Let them draw large capital A's and make believe they are anthills. They can draw ants crawling up and down the sides. If you really want a more involved project, let the children draw one large A and then brush glue right over the two sides with a Q-tip. They can then sprinkle sand over the glue and allow to dry before drawing their ants!

Hand Motions:

