

Dear Family:

We are now ready for you to be your child's Coach. In Unit 1, your child will learn (or review) letter names and sounds for the letters a-z, and letter formation for lower-case letters. This is laying the necessary foundation for your child to become a fluent, independent reader.

During the next few weeks, I will be teaching or reviewing:

- Letter recognition a-z
- Letter formation from a-z for lower-case letters
- Sound recognition (consonants and short vowels)
- Print awareness
- Word awareness
- Story re-telling and comprehension
- Rhyming
- Phonemic awareness skills to identify the beginning and ending sounds in words

I will explain these in more detail as we go through the Unit. As you can see, it is a lot! That is why Unit 1 will take us the next 12 weeks.

Each week, I will send home the letters that we are working on in class. I will also send home other activity suggestions to reinforce skills.

If you have any questions, please write them down and I'll get back to you. WE ARE OFF!

Sincerely,

☺ The Kindergarten Team

Important! Please keep each letter page. You will need them to construct an alphabet book when you are in Unit 2.





Review Letter Formations With Your Child

For the next 12 weeks, your child will practice writing the letters in **lowercase**. As you may notice, these will not be taught in alphabetical order. This is because we group letters with similar formations.

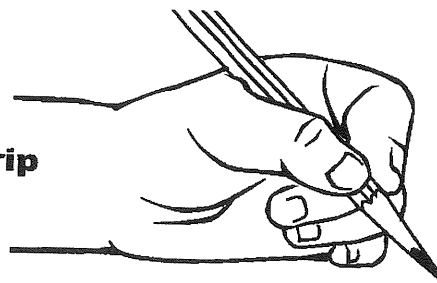
WEEK	LETTERS	WEEK	LETTERS	WEEK	LETTERS
1	t b f	5	a g	9	l h k
2	n m	6	d s	10	v w
3	i u	7	e r	11	y x
4	c o	8	p j	12	z q

Encourage correct pencil grip

Be sure your child has the pencil between the index finger and the thumb and then rests it on the other fingers.



Right Hand Pencil Grip



Left Hand Pencil Grip

When your child writes, both elbows should be on the table and feet should be on the floor, if possible. You can use an old box under the table if the table is too high. Also, have your child hold the paper with the non-writing hand.

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Review Letter Formations With Your Child (Continued)

Practice the letter formations

You can practice the letter formations at home just like we are practicing them in school.

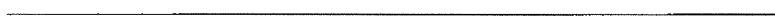
We call the special lines our **Writing Grid**. The pictures indicate the names of the lines: the sky line, plane line, grass line and worm line (see below).



SKY LINE



PLANE LINE



GRASS LINE



WORM LINE

Letter Formation for t

t is a sky line letter.
It starts on the (sky line).

1. Point to the sky line.
2. Go down to the grass line.
3. Cross it on the plane line.
4. Say t - top - /t/, have students repeat.

As your child traces the letter, guide him or her by reading the directions on the enclosed **Letter Formation Guide**.

Say the verbal step-by-step guidelines while your child traces the **lower-case letter** with his or her **finger**. *Try to do the week's letters every night.* Have your child color the pictures as well.

Remember, you are not only sharing a fun experience but you are being the Coach as well, reinforcing some of the things we are doing in school.



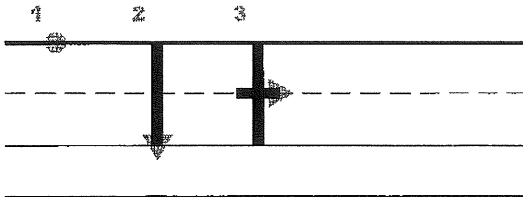
Fundations Letter Formation Guide

Say the verbal step-by-step guidelines while your child traces the **lower-case** letter with his or her finger. Try to do the week's letters every night. (Only do the lower-case letter.) Have your child color the picture.

Letter Formation for **t**

t is a sky line letter.

It starts on the (sky line).

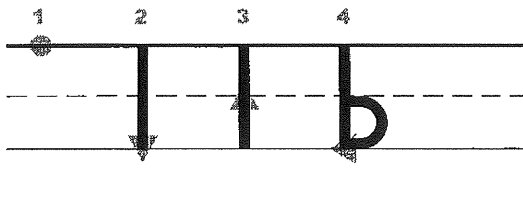


1. Point to the sky line.
2. Go down to the grass line.
3. Cross it on the plane line.
4. Say t - top - /t/, have students repeat.

Letter Formation for **b**

b is a sky line letter.

It starts on the (sky line).

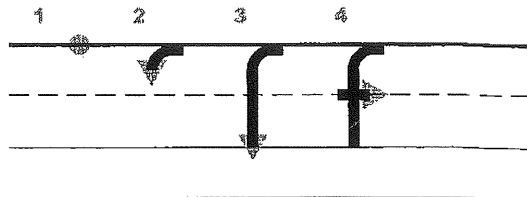


1. Point to the sky line.
2. Go down to the grass line.
3. Trace up to the plane line,
4. and around to the grass line.
5. Say b - bat - /b/, have students repeat.

Letter Formation for **f**

f is a sky line letter.

It starts on the (sky line).



1. Point to the sky line.
2. Trace back on the sky line,
3. and then way down to the grass line.
4. Cross it on the plane line.
5. Say f - fun - /f/, have students repeat.

