

PRINT & DIGITAL



SPECIAL ED



These letter of the week units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were non-readers. We spent one week per letter.

Table of Contents

Worksheet Pages	Activity
4-5	Alphabet board
6-24	Letter H book
	Group Activities
25-30	Circle map
31-32	Scavenger Hunt
33-35	Paper plate game
36	Craft: Hot chocolate spoons
37-39	Picture Recipe: Hot Diggity Dog
	Individual Activities
40-43	Circle map
44-47	Sorting activities
48-49	Letter collage
50-62	Preposition booklet
	Bonus Activities
63-72	Social story: Saying Hello
73	Sequence saying hello
74-75	Terms of Use

This unit has 5 group activities and 5 individual activities. They are in both a print and digital format.

Color version

Letter H

Letter of the Week Unit

By
Christa Joy
Special Needs for Special Kids



In separate files, you will:

- Black and white version of this unit
- 5-day lesson plan
- Directions and links to digital activities

This entire unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.

Letter of the Week Lesson Plan

Quick Look

Preparation

- Print out a alphabet board for each student to use throughout unit
 - Laminate or place in page protector
- Books
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - There are 2 books: one for the letter of the week and one social story
 - You can also use the link in the digital activities to the movie version can show rather than printing out the book

Teaching Tips

1. **Color Coding:** this is a reinforcement activity. Outline or color the corresponding picture task.
 - a. For more info, read <https://specialneedsfirst.com/differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post <https://specialneedsfirst.com/3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
2. **Make your own copies of yesterday.** For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the task that I could use year after year
 - b. My copies were also more support or as a work sample
3. **Options for Use:** Turn around laminating and adding Velcro
 - a. For more info, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3474240>

Day	Activity
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book • Class circle map • Individual circle map
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book • Class scavenger hunt • Individual sorting activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alphabet song • Book

Day 2

Activity	Notes	Materials
Sing alphabet song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your favorite alphabet song, sing along using the alphabet board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Students should point to each letter as they sing • Special attention is paid to finding the letter of the week as well as past letters learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song • Alphabet board
Read the book: Letter of the week (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the story, asking lots of questions • Continue to make connections between book and alphabet board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book • Alphabet board
Group activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scavenger Hunt (See activity for detailed directions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Students will go around the room looking for the letter of the week and objects that start with that letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of the week cards
Circle map review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the circle map completed yesterday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle map completed yesterday
Individual activity (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the sorting activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Choose to use either picture symbols, actual letters in different fonts or BOTH!! ◦ Use color coding if needed for additional support (answer key included) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorting activity • Scissors • Glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student shares their finished sorting activity with the group using the communication method of their choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed activity • Communication devices

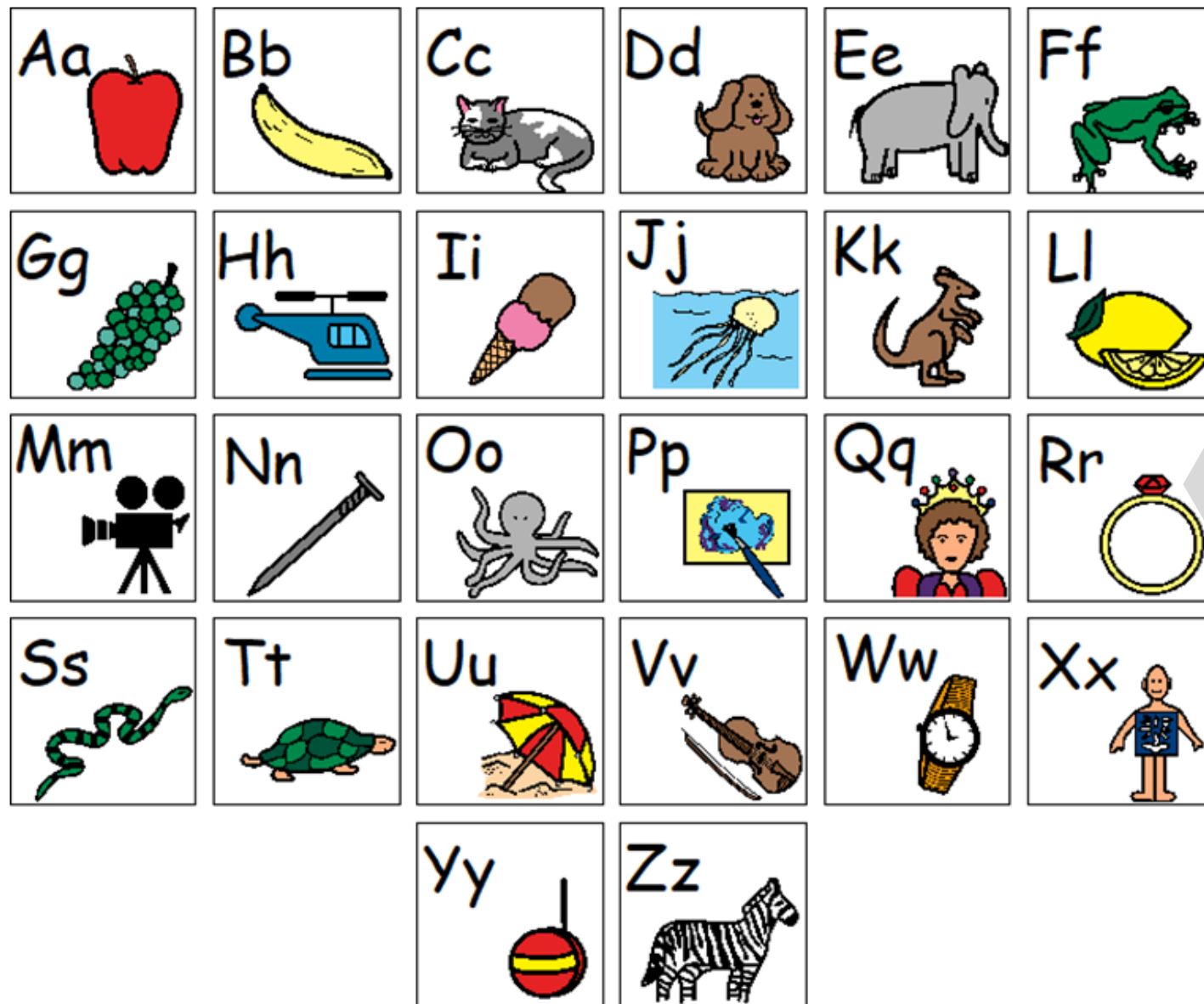
The lesson plans contain:

- Things to prepare and suggestions
- Overall look at week
- Detailed plan for each day

This unit comes with an alphabet board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!





Headband start with H.

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Hockey starts with H.

This unit comes with a book for that letter. It has photos and simple, repeatable text.

Each daily lesson is started with this book.

Watch the
movie on the
Letter H



The Letter H

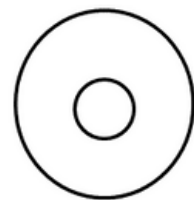
By Christa Joy

If you do not want to print the book out, there is a link to a movie version (mp4 file) that you can play in a google slide online or project. It is read aloud and has automatic page advancement.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- CLASS CIRCLE MAP
 - SCAVENGER HUNT
 - PAPER PLATE GAME
 - CRAFT
 - PICTURE RECIPE
-
- EACH GROUP ACTIVITY COMES WITH DIRECTIONS AND A LIST OF MATERIALS NEEDED
 - EVERY UNIT HAS THE SAME ACTIVITIES

Class Circle Map



- Preparation
 - Draw a large circle on a piece of poster board (I used a class trash can)
 - Either laminate or apply pieces of hook Velcro in random places within the circle
 - Cut out follow pictures, laminate and attach loop Velcro if using
- Directions
 - Place a post-it note in center of the letter of the week
 - Distribute prepared letter card symbols to the students.
 - Have them take turns bringing up cards and adding to circle
 - When complete, re-name all pictures in the circle
 - There are enough cards to use different cards throughout the week

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Day 1

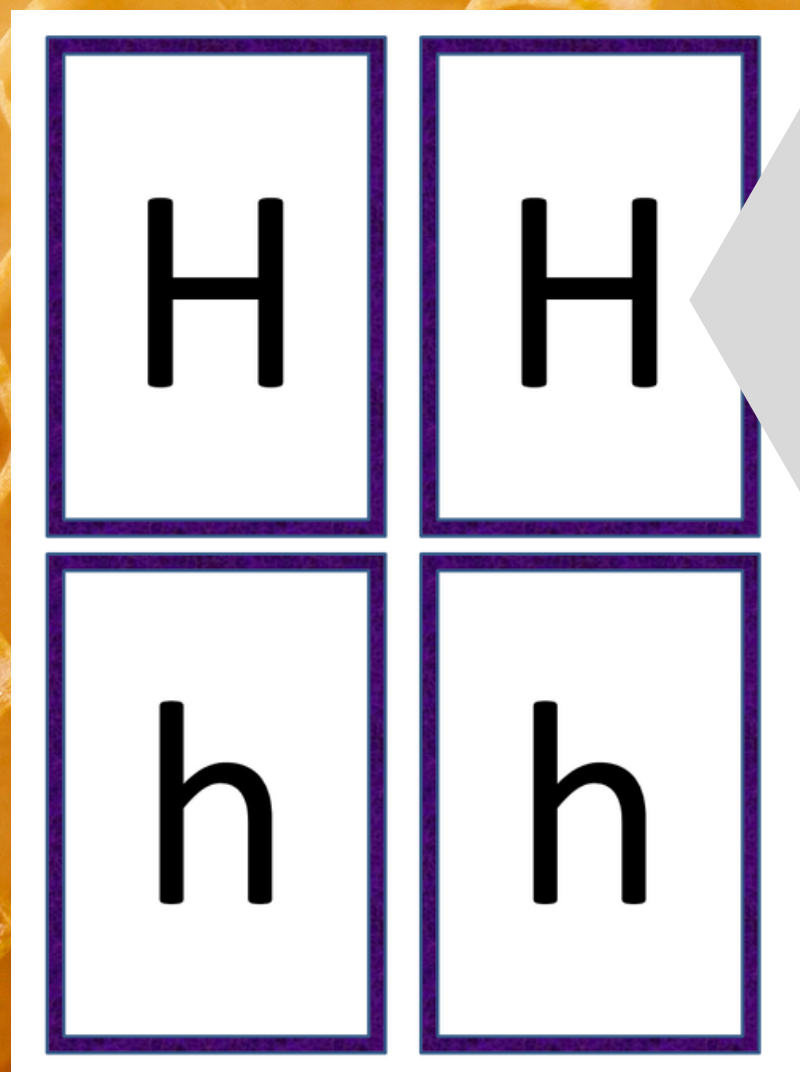
The class circle map comes with directions and suggestions for modifications. There are 30 large picture cards included.

Class Scavenger Hunt



- **Preparation**
 - Print out as many copies of the letter card as you think you will need. Laminate for durability.
 - Place the letter cards on various things around the room that start with the letter of the week
- **Directions**
 - Have students walk around looking for items that start with the letter of the week
 - Once students find the letter label, they should attempt to name the item they have found
- **Differentiation**
 - For students that need more structure, give them a piece of poster board with blank spaces to show them how many letter cards they should try to find
 - For students still struggling, have pictures of what items they are to find and see if they can match the object that starts with the letter to the picture
- For *5 different ways to do a scavenger hunt*, check out this blog post with free hunts to download:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2019/03/11/5-new-ways-to-use-a-savenger-hunt-in-special-ed/>

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Day 2

The scavenger hunt also comes with directions and modification options.

Pick up the Plates



- **Preparation**
 - Print out as many copies of the letter cards as you think you will need. Laminate for durability.
 - Print out letter of the week pictures and “distractors”
 - Attach letters and pictures to inexpensive paper plates
- **Directions**
 - Spread the paper plates around the classroom or work area on the floor
 - You can choose to either place them upside down for variation 1 or right side up for variation 2
 - Variation 1
 - Students take turn picking up a plate and bringing it back to their seat
 - The student gets to keep the plate if it is the letter of the week or a picture that begins with the letter of the week
 - Whoever has the most plates at the end of the games wins
 - Variation 2
 - Student looks at plates and tries to only pick up one that has the letter of the week or a picture that begins with that sound
 - Student gets to keep the plate if correct.
 - Whoever has the most plates at the end wins
- **Differentiation**
 - For students that need more structure, color code the letter of the week and the pictures that start with that letter the same background color. That way students are looking for a color as a cue to the correct answer.
 - Or, eliminate the distractors all together

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Day 3

The paper plate game gets kids up and moving around.

Day 4

Hot Chocolate Spoons

- This craft is specifically designed for students with various challenges to enable them to complete it as independently as possible.
- You will need
 - Plastic spoons
 - Chocolate chips
 - Mini-marshmallows
 - Wax or parchment paper
 - Cellophane or saran wrap
 - ribbons
 - Access to microwave
- Directions
 - Melt chocolate in microwave
 - Dip spoon into melted chocolate, making sure to get all of the spoon covered
 - Place on wax paper
 - Sprinkle mini-marshmallows on spoon while chocolate still soft
 - Let harden
 - Wrap one spoon in cellophane with a ribbon as a gift to a friend
 - Use other spoon for a hot chocolate treat in class!
- Differentiation
 - For students who may use adapted spoons, be sure to make one of the spoons utilizing their specialized spoon.




Each week has a craft that is specifically designed so students can do much of it independently.

Hot Diggity Dogs



- Preparation
 - Print out ingredient labels and affix to ingredients prior to lesson
 - Depending on the learning level of your students you can either pre-measure the ingredients, so they are just dumping in what is in the containers, **or**
 - Allow your students to measure out the correct amount (good for older students especially)
 - Review and address any food allergies
 - Depending on learning style of your students, either print a class copy of the copy for each student
















Ingredient Labels

 hot dogs	 crescent rolls
 mustard	 crescent rolls

Recipe Directions

- *For students that separate the recipe apart the recipe as separate index cards*
 - You will need access to

- Directions
 - As a class make hotdog

1. Cut a  in 3 pieces. 
2. Separate  
3. Cut each  into 4 pieces. 
4. Stack the following:    
5. Roll up stack 
6. Place on cookie sheet 
7. Bake according to directions on package 
8. Eat with  

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Day 5

Hot Diggity Dog

Each week has a simple picture recipe that is done on day 5 as the last activity of the week.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

- CIRCLE MAP
 - SORTING ACTIVITY
 - COLLAGE
 - CRAFT
 - ACTIVITY TO GO WITH A SOCIAL STORY
-
- EACH INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY COMES WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR DIFFERENTIATION
 - EVERY UNIT HAS THE SAME ACTIVITIES

Day 1

Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

An option that has wrong answers mixed in

students will need to set aside.

Cut out pictures below and paste in circle map showing things that start with the letter H.



Cut out pictures below and paste in circle map **ONLY IF** they start with the letter H.



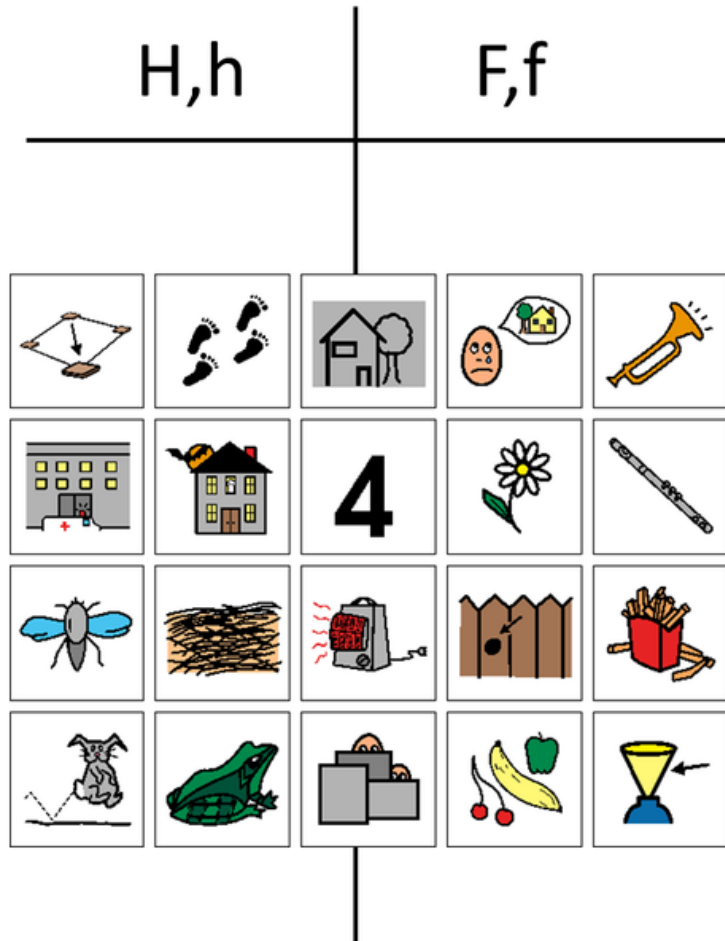
H,h

Day 2

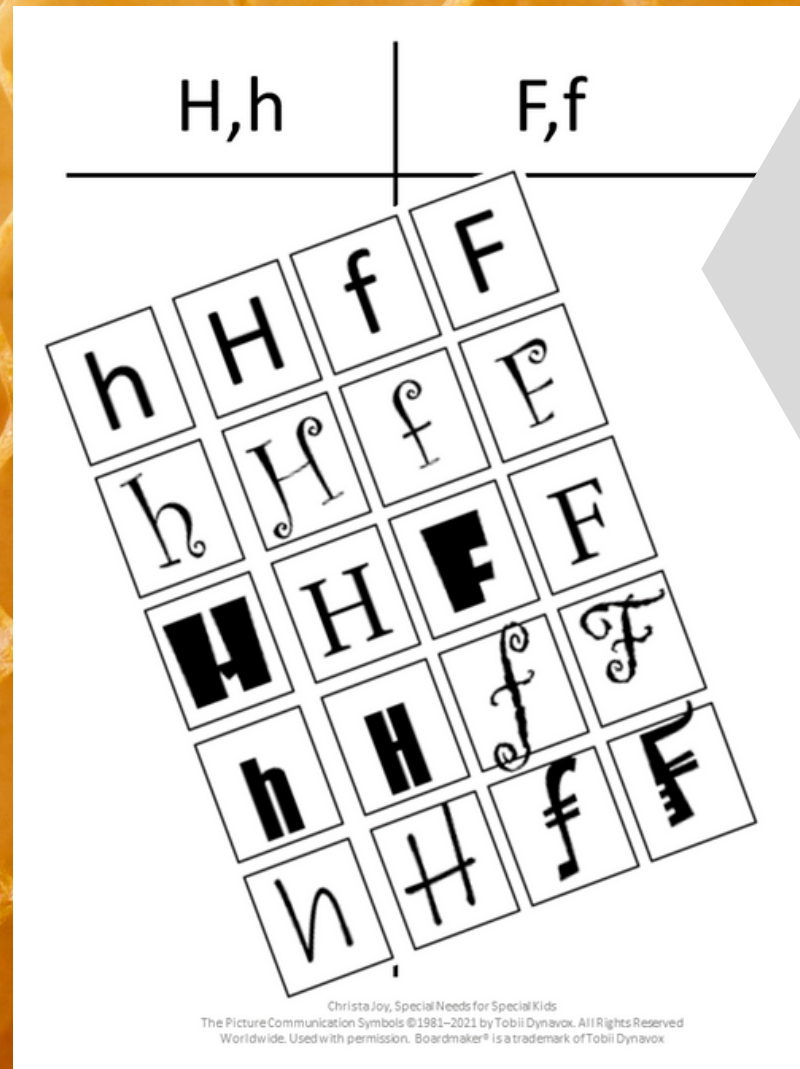
There are sorting activities.

One sort uses pictures and one uses letters in various fonts.

Directions for differentiation are included.

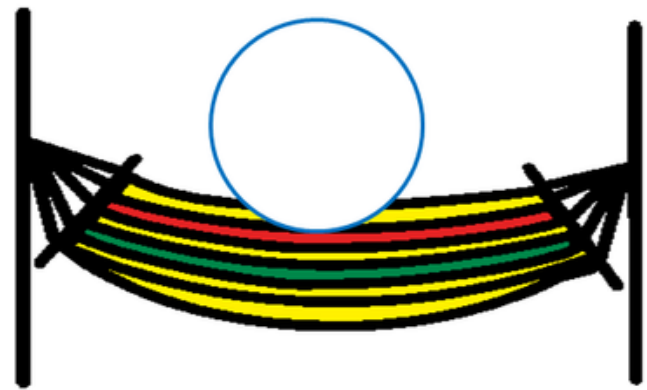


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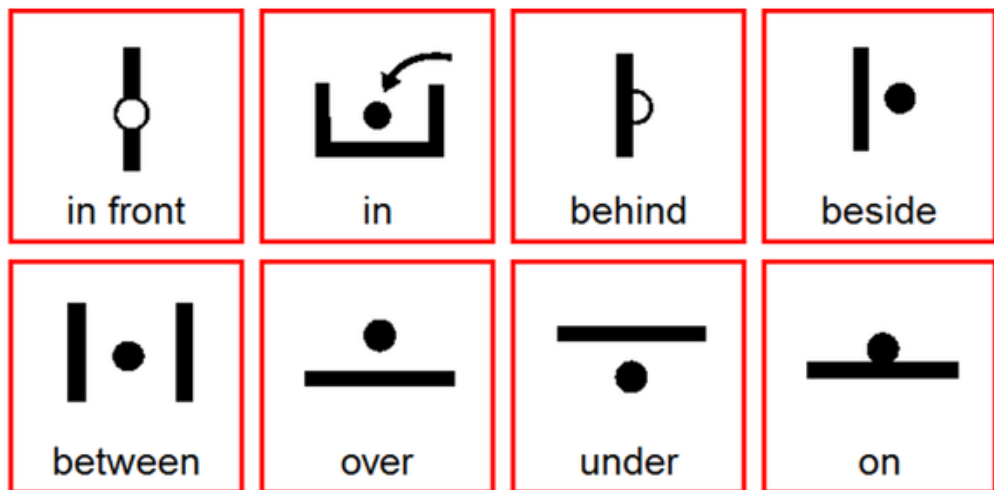
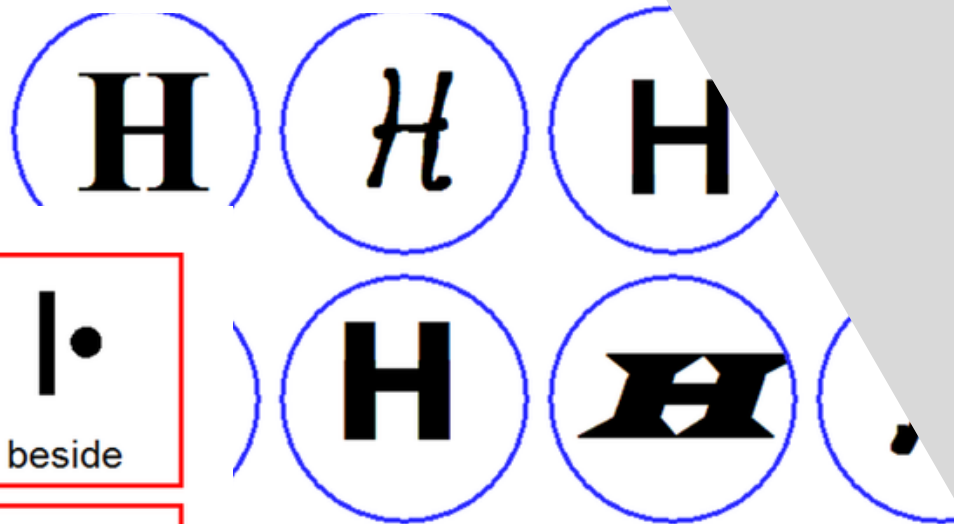
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Day 3



The letter H is the hammock.

Students complete a preposition booklet indicating where the letter of the week is located in relation to various objects.



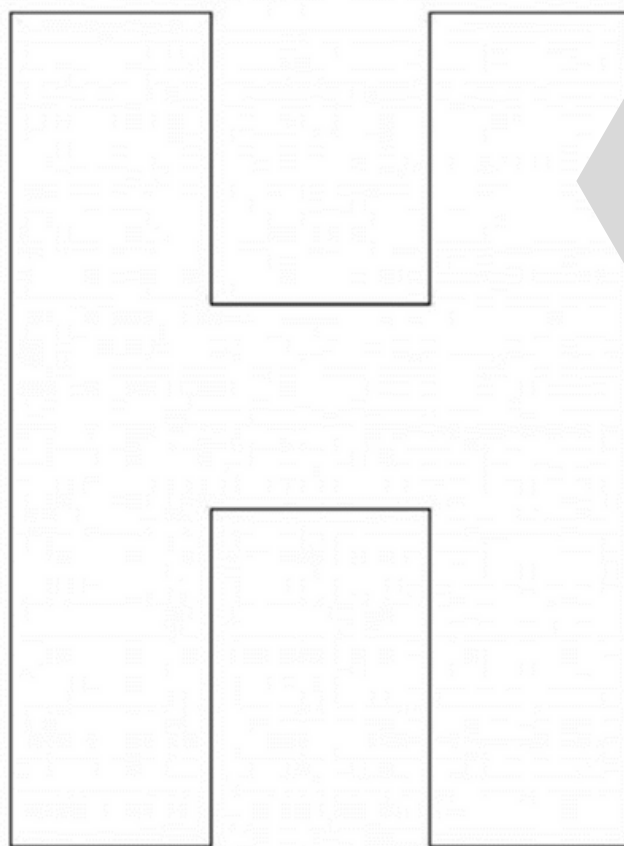
Letter H collage



- Directions
 - Print out one copy per student of the upper case letter template on cardstock
 - Paint the interior of the letter H with white glue
 - Give each student a cup filled with Honeycomb cereal
 - Students fill interior of letter with cereal, placing one honeycomb on at a time
- Differentiation
 - Either the teacher should apply the glue or the teacher depending on the learning level of the student



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Day 4

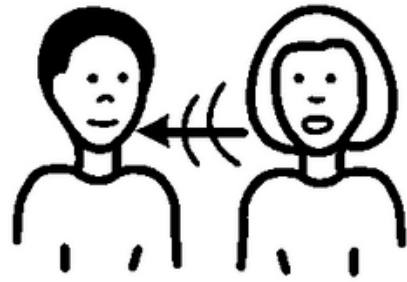
Students make a collage using a letter template and an item for that letter of the week. There are modifications and ways to differentiate included.



When I see someone who I know it is nice to say "hi."

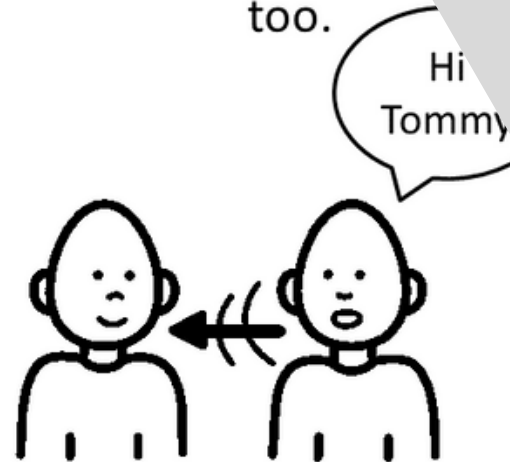


2. Say "hello" in a friendly, soft voice.



Page 3

3. If I know the person's name, I can say their name too.



Page 4

Day 5

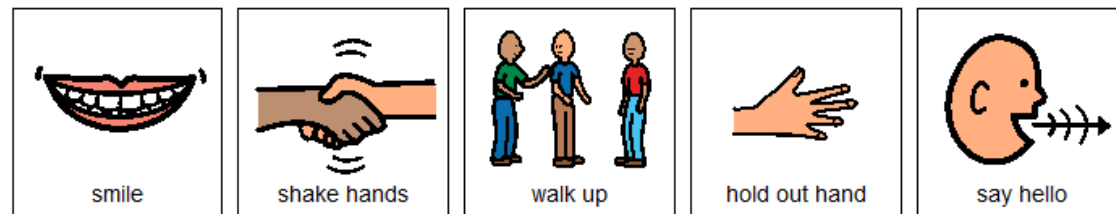
Each unit has a social story that ties into the letter of the week. This unit has one on saying hello. It also comes in a black and white booklet.

Day 5

When you see someone, it is nice to say hello. Put the pictures in the order you would say hello.

--	--	--	--	--

Cut apart and place in correct order above.



You may want to have your students role play this to determine what feels like the best sequence of events for them.

There is an individual activity that relates to that social story. This one has students sequence the steps to saying hello. Directions and modifications are provided.

DIGITAL ACTIVITIES

- CIRCLE MAP
- 2 SORTING ACTIVITIES
- CIRCLE ALL THE OBJECTS STARTING WITH THE LETTER OF THE WEEK
- PREPOSITION BOOK
- ACTIVITY TO GO WITH A SOCIAL STORY

- THERE ARE 2 SETS OF SLIDES.
 - ONE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENTIATED WITH COLOR
- BOTH BOOKS ARE EMBEDDED AS MOVIES INTO THE SET OF SLIDES

Watch the
movie on the
Letter H



The Letter H

By Christa Joy

Watch the
movie on
Saying Hello

Saying "Hi"



By
Christa Joy

Students can watch the
movies of both the
letter of the week book
and the social story.

Great for review

Circle all the pictures of things that start with the letter H.

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Each activity is set up so students can click and drag answers. No typing is required.

perfect for any learning level

The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it. Mix and match slides from both sets to make the perfect set for each student.

H,h

F,f

Sort the following into the correct column depending what letter they begin with.

h	H	f	F
H	f	F	
F	F	h	H
F	h	H	f

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