

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 I book
	<b>Group Activities</b>
25-30	Circle map
31-32	Scavenger Hunt
33-35	Paper plate game
36	Craft: Igloos
37-39	Picture Recipe: Incredible ice cream
	<b>Individual Activities</b>
40-43	Circle map
44-47	Sorting activities
48-49	Letter collage
50-62	Preposition booklet
	<b>Bonus Activities</b>
63-79	Social story: Everyone gets irritated
80-82	Good or bad choices when irritated
83-84	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 I

## 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://specialneedsfdifferentiation/>
  - b. I also have a blog post <https://specialneedsfdifferentiation/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 made with more support or as a work sheet
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"> <li>• Alphabet song</li> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Class circle map</li> <li>• Individual circle map</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alphabet song</li> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Class scavenger hunt</li> <li>• Individual sorting activity</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alphabet song</li> <li>• Book</li> </ul>

### Day 2

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

The lesson plans contain:

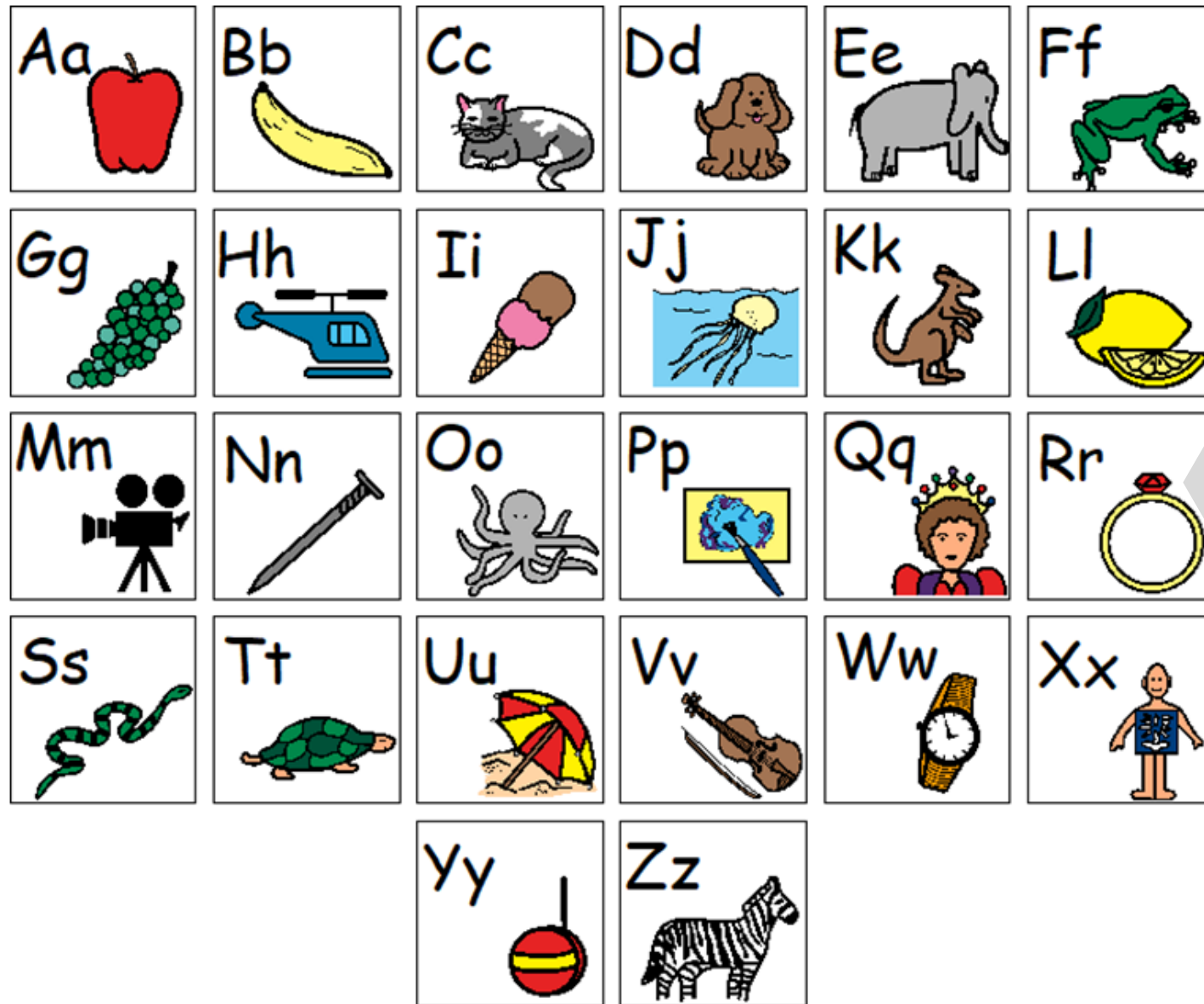
- Things to prepare and suggestions
- Overall look at week
- Detailed plan for each day



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!!







Igloo starts with I.



Ice cream starts with I.

*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 about  
the letter I



The Letter I

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.

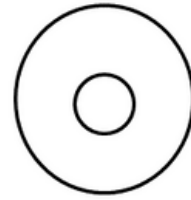


# GROUP ACTIVITIES

- 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

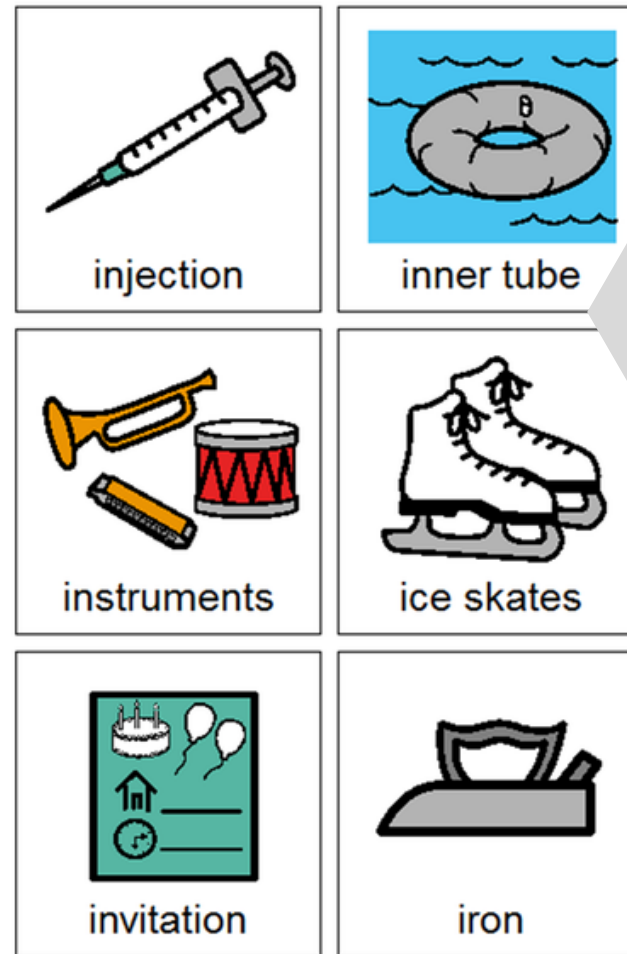


# Class Circle Map



- 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

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

# Day 1

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

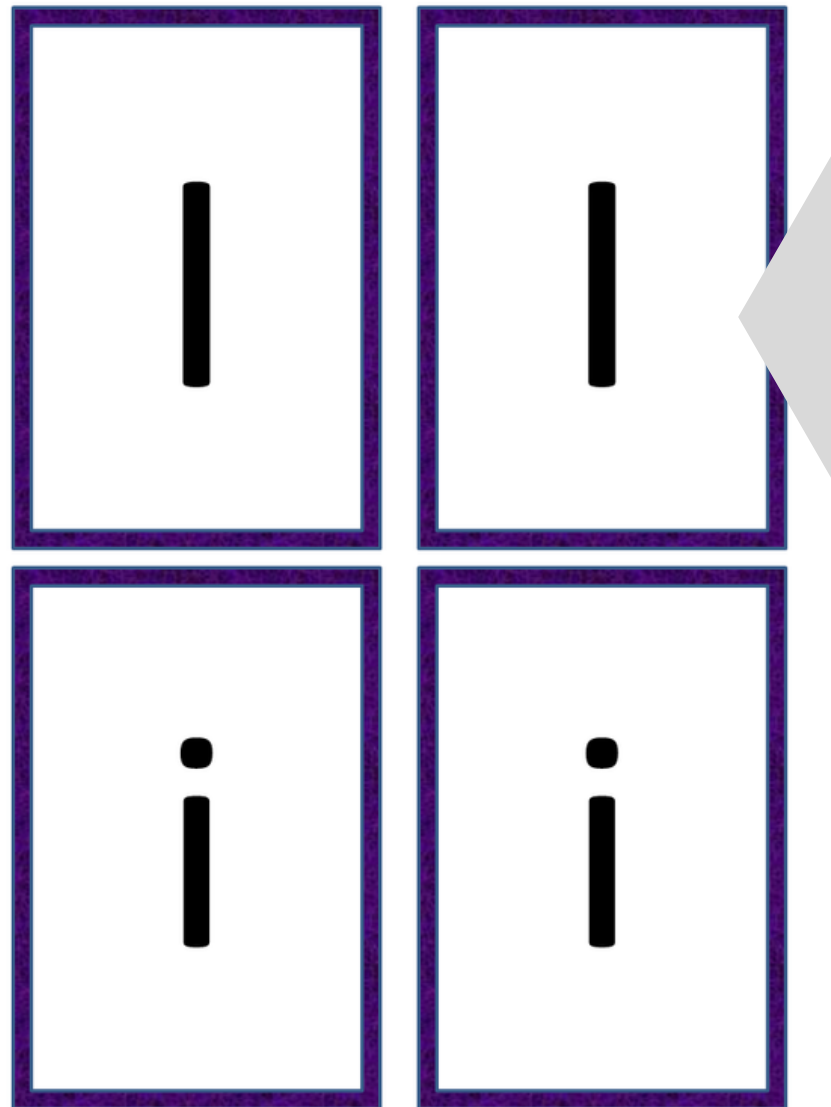


## Class Scavenger Hunt



- **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-scavenger-hunt-in-special-ed/>

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols © 1981–2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



# 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 “distracters”
  - 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 distracters all together

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

# Day 3

The paper plate game gets kids up and moving around.



# Igloos



- This craft is specifically designed for students with severe disabilities to enable them to complete it as independently as possible.
- You will need
  - Plastic bowls
  - White frosting
  - Mini-marshmallows
- Directions
  - Cut a semicircle opening in the bowl, similar to picture above
  - Have students cover bowl with white frosting
  - Cover igloo with mini-marshmallows

*Day 4*

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



# Day 5

# Incredible Ice Cream






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

## Incredible Ice Cream



















- 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 print a class copy of the recipe + copy for each student
    - *For students that are visual apart the recipe and mount separate index card*
- Directions
  - As a class make ice cream follow

## Ingredient Labels

 ice cubes	 whole milk
	 sugar
	 chocolate syrup

## Recipe Directions

-  1. Combine in a baggie
  -  1 cup 
  -  2 tablespoons 
  -  1/2 teaspoon  And/or 
-  2. Place in a gallon baggie
  -  1/2 cup  And 
-  3. Place small, sealed baggie in gallon baggie.
-  4. Shake 
-  5. Eat



## 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

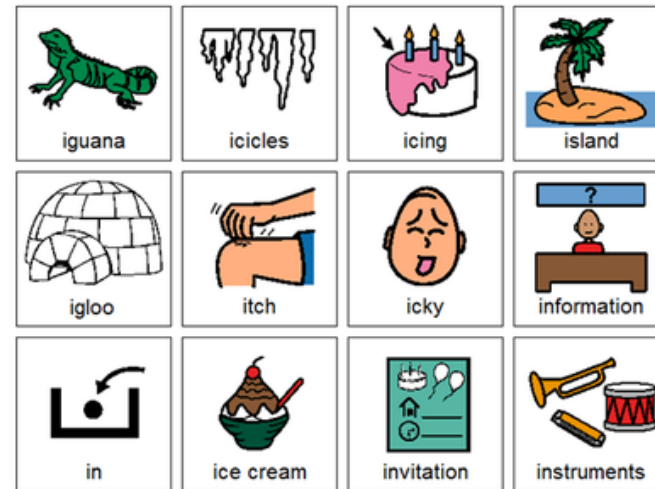
Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

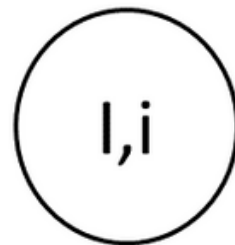
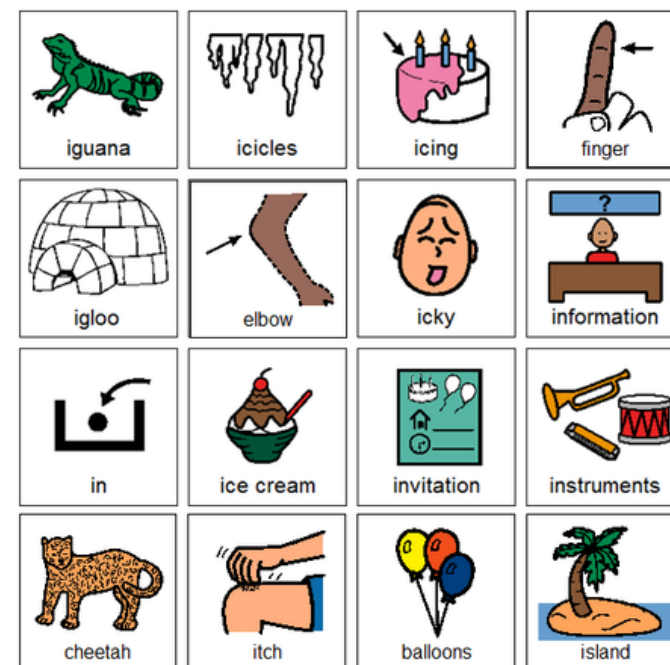
An option that has wrong answers mixed in

students will need to set aside.

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



Cut out pictures below and paste in circle map **ONLY IF** they show things that start with the letter I.





# Day 2

There are sorting activities.

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

Directions for differentiation are included.



l,i		E,e		

l,i		E,e	
i	l	e	E
ï	l	e	E
i	l	e	E
i	l	e	E
i	l	e	E
!	!	!	!

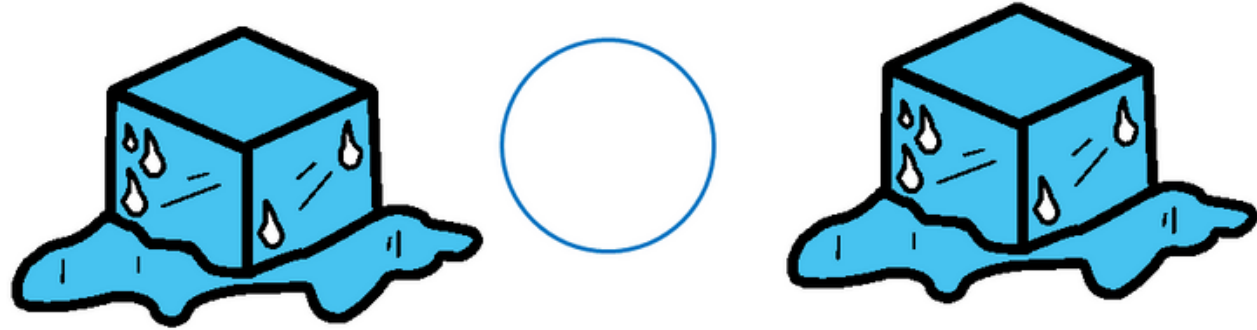
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

l,i		E,e		

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



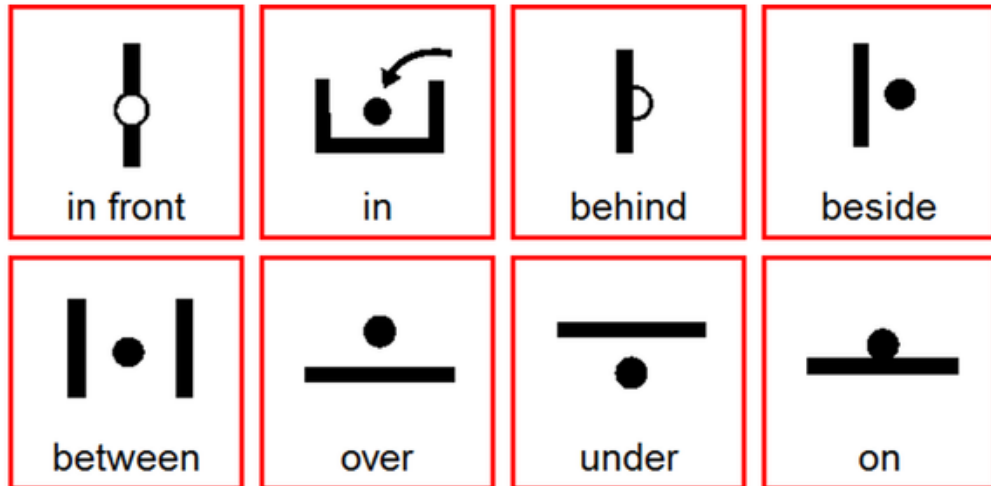
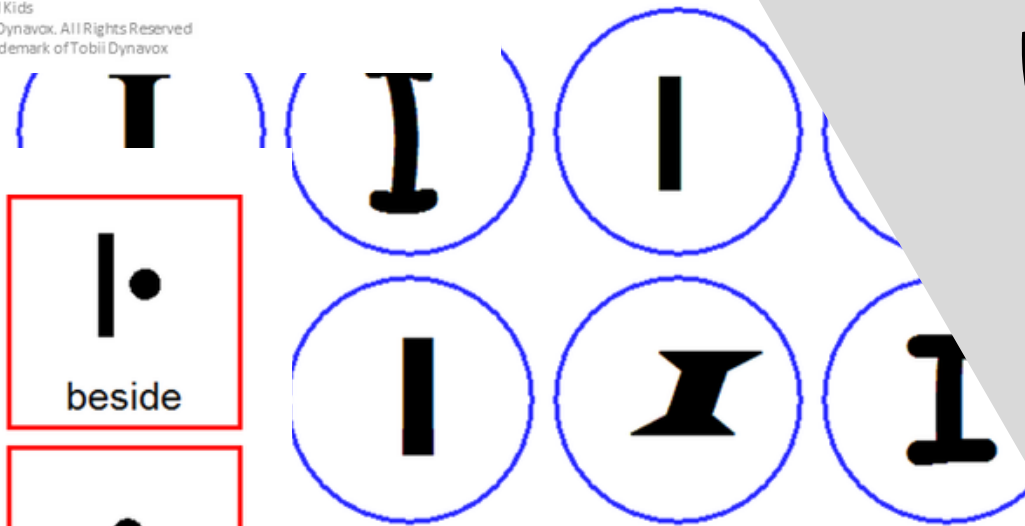
# Day 3



The letter I is  the ice cubes.

ChristaJoy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

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



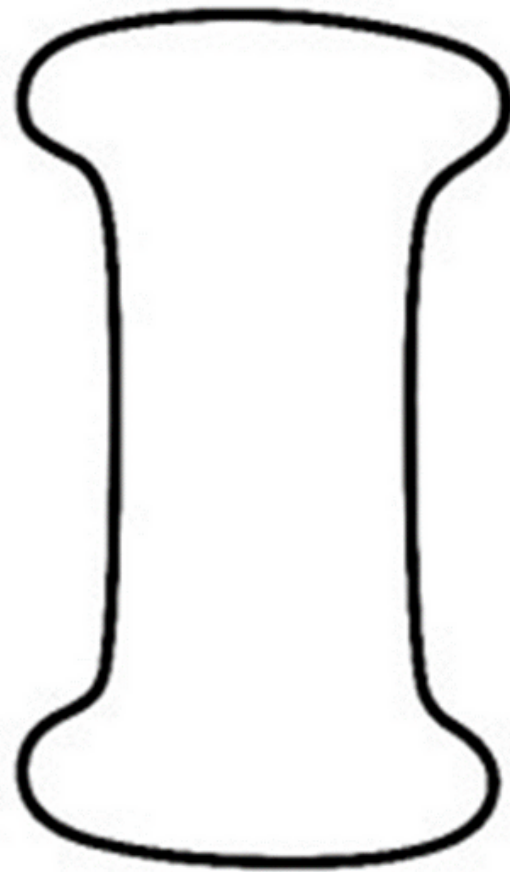


# Letter I collage



- Directions
  - Print out one copy per student of the upper case letter template on cardstock
  - Paint the interior of the letter I with white glue
  - The idea of this collage is to fill the letter template with as much as information as possible.
  - Give each student a magazine or catalog and allow them to cut out random words, letters, and pictures to fill the interior of the letter
- Differentiation
  - If students cannot cut out things from a page, allow them to simply tear small pieces from pages

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981–2021 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

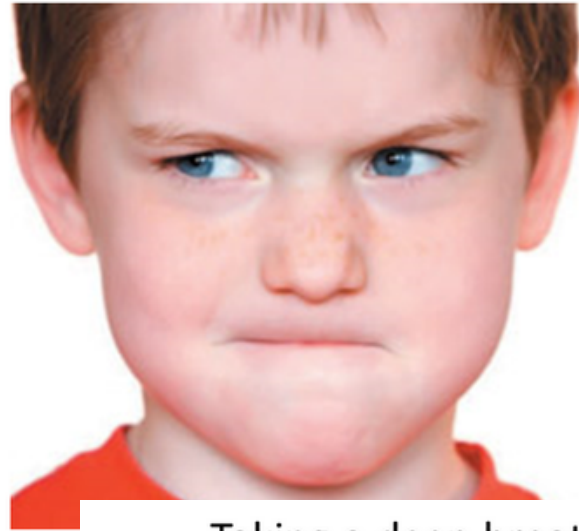
## Day 4

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.

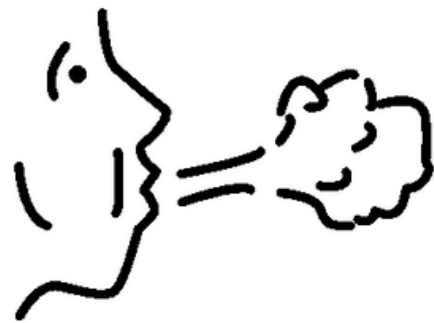




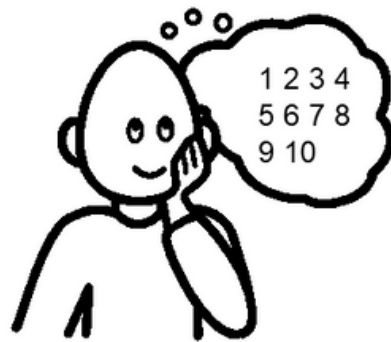
*There are certain things I notice when I feel irritated.*



Taking a deep breath makes me feel better when I am irritated.



Counting to 10 quietly makes me feel better when I am irritated.



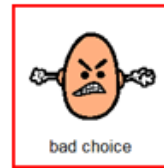
## *Day 5*

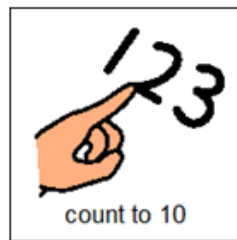


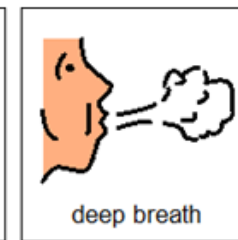
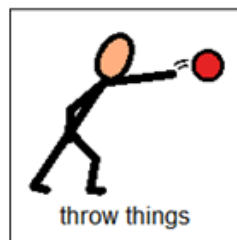

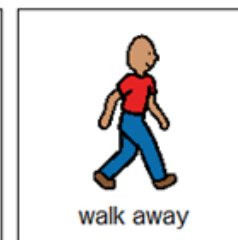

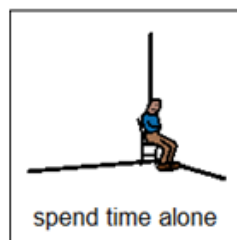
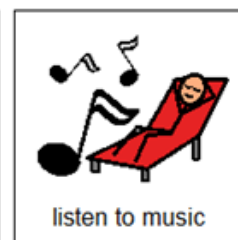

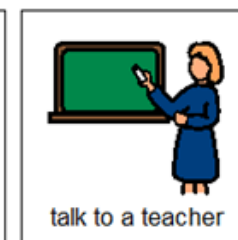
Each unit has a social story. This one is on getting irritated. It also comes in a black and white booklet.



# Day 5

Everyone gets irritated. But there are good choices and bad choices when you do get irritated. Look at the actions on the next pages and put them in the best column.



 <p>count to 10</p>	 <p>hit others</p>	 <p>yell</p>	 <p>deep breath</p>
 <p>throw things</p>	 <p>say leave me alone</p>	 <p>walk away</p>	 <p>bite others</p>
 <p>spend time alone</p>	 <p>listen to music</p>	 <p>be mean</p>	 <p>talk to a teacher</p>

There is an individual activity that relates to that social story. This one has students sort good and bad choices when you are irritated. 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 about the letter I



The Letter I

Watch the movie about getting irritated



*Everyone Gets Irritated*

By  
Christa Joy

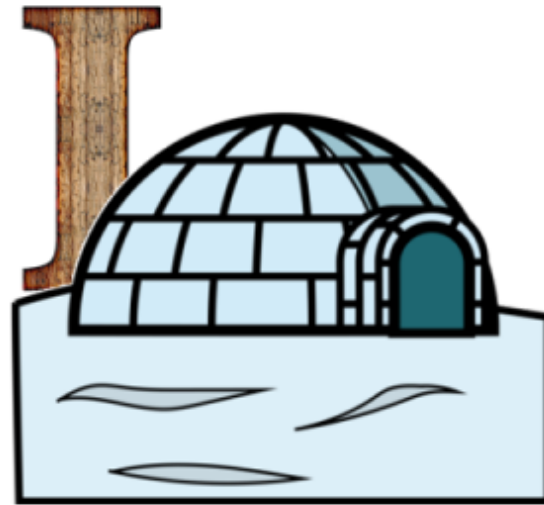
Students can watch the movies of both the letter of the week book and the social story.



**Great for review**

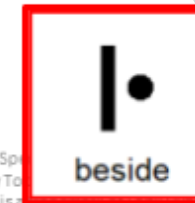
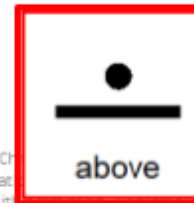
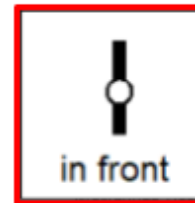
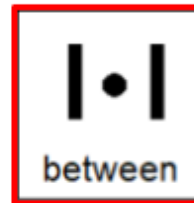
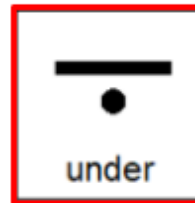
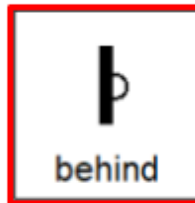
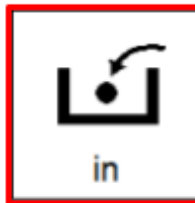
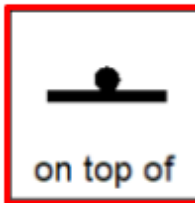


The letter I is  the inner tube.



The letter I is  the igloo.

Match the right preposition.



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

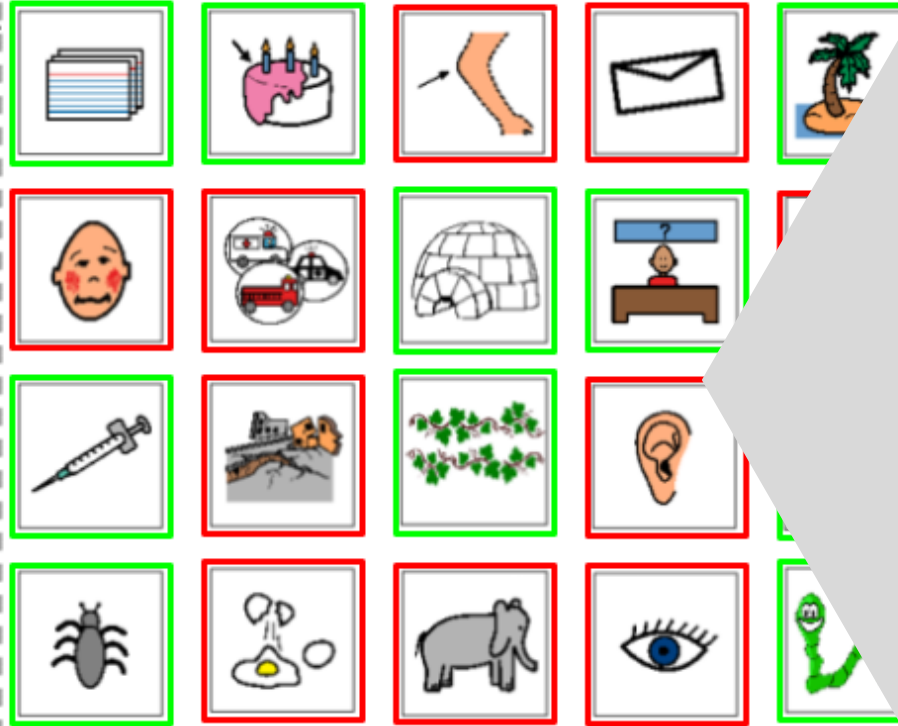


# perfect for any learning level

l,i

E,e

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



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.



**Save money and get this unit as part of the  
Letter of the Week Bundle**

**CLICK HERE**

