

Special Ed



LETTER  
OF THE  
WEEK  
CURRICULUM



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES





## For students who:

- are emerging or non-readers
- take alternate assessments
- are in special education
- short-attention span
- lack pre-requisite skills
- benefit from the use of pictures for support
- elementary school



## Why you need this bundle:

- If you teach multiple grade levels, you have all you need in one place.
- Having the same layout for each unit reduces students' anxiety and allows them to focus on the content.
- Aligned with most extended learning standards.
- Saves you money
- Saves you time.



This bundle includes 26 units, one for each letter of the alphabet. Each unit has a 5-day lesson plan. There are daily group and individual activities for a lesson lasting 30-45 minutes.

Each unit has the same activities. This repetition helps students focus on the content and not how to do the activities.

**Scroll on to see examples of each activity.**



# Table of Contents

Worksheet Pages	Activity
4-5	Alphabet board
6-24	Letter Z book
	<b>Group Activities</b>
25-30	Circle map
31-32	Scavenger Hunt
33-35	Paper plate game
36	Craft: Zinger Bottles
37-40	Picture Recipe: Zucchini Muffins
	<b>Individual Activities</b>
41-44	Circle map
45-48	Sorting activities
49-50	Letter collage
51-63	Preposition booklet
	<b>Bonus Activities</b>
64-84	Social story: ZZZZ Going to Bed
85-87	Your bedtime routine
88-89	Terms of Use

There are 5 group activities and 5 individual activities for each letter.

Activities are in both print and digital formats.



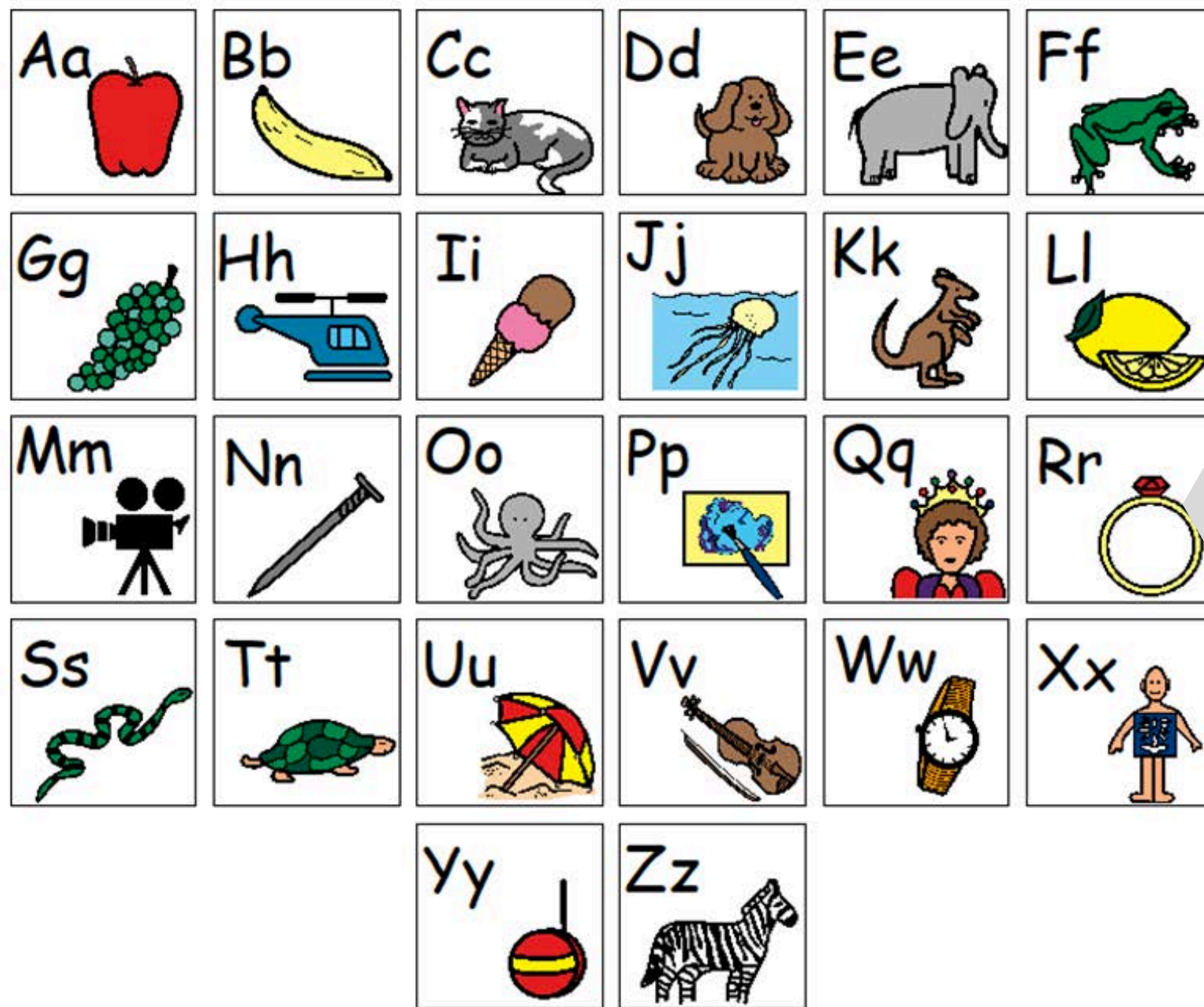
## Day 2

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:

- Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs
- A quick look at what you will do each day
- Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run





Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

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!!





Jaguar starts with J.

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids



Jumping rope starts with J.

Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids

Each unit comes with a 20 page 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 V



## The Letter V

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.

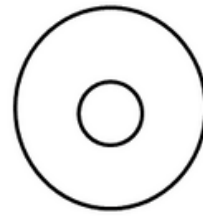


# GROUP ACTIVITIES

- 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

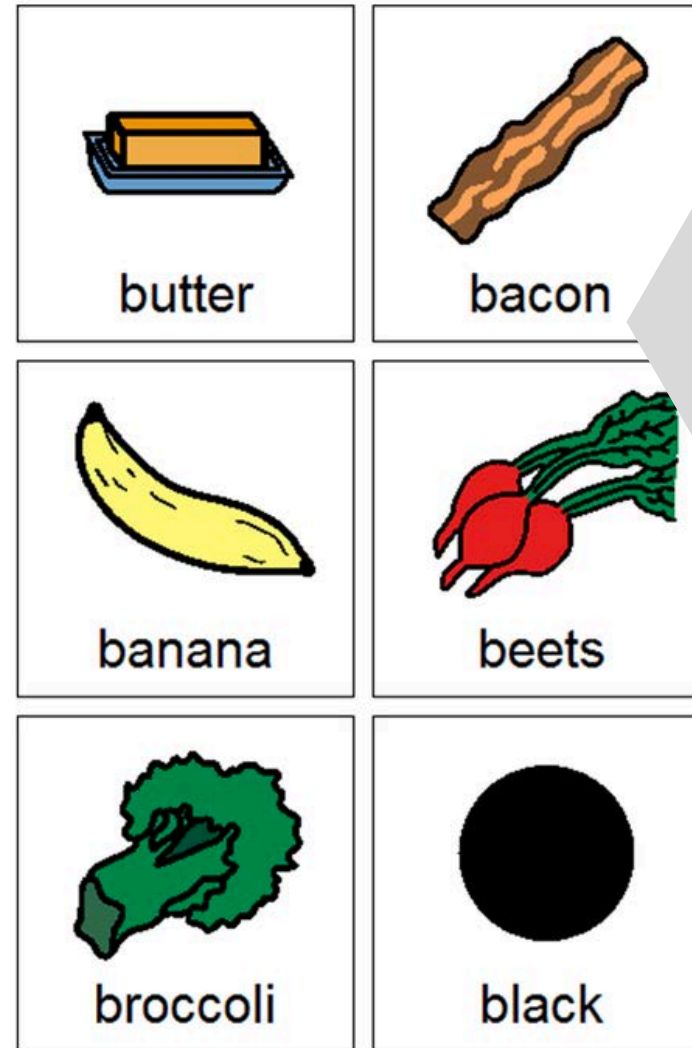


## Class Circle Map



- 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.

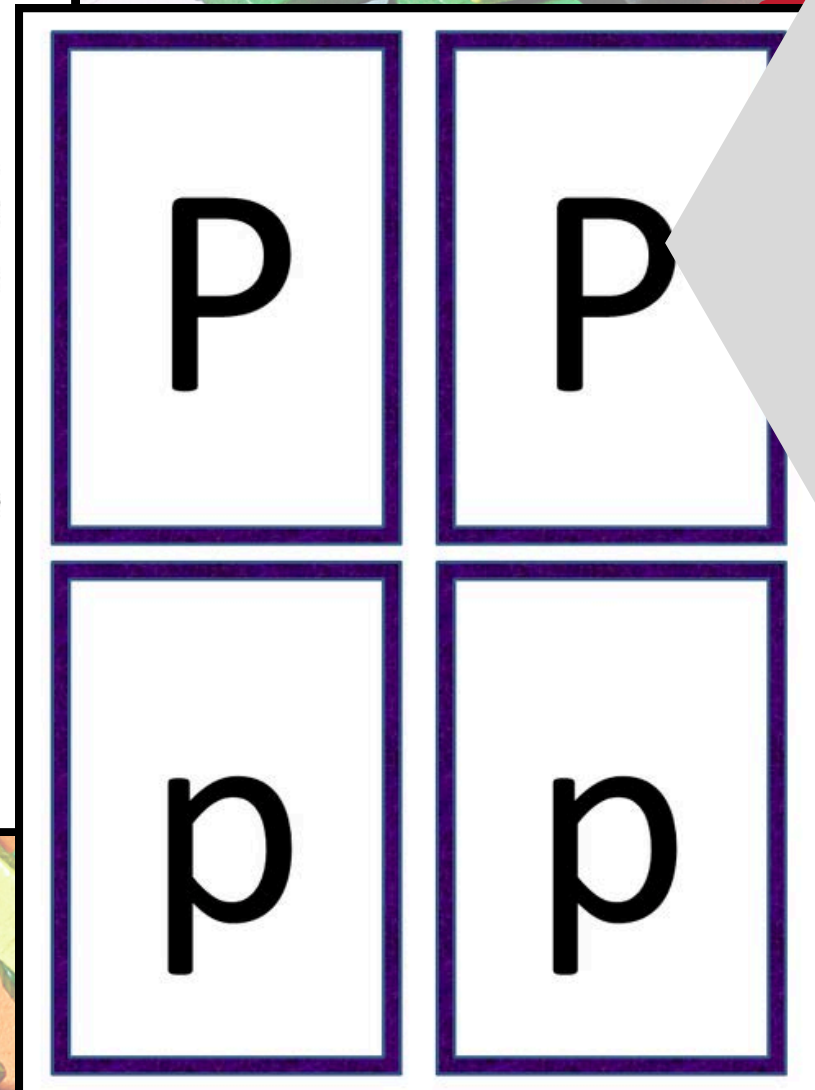


# Class Scavenger Hunt



- **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 of the game wins
- **Differentiation**
  - For students that need more structure, color the letter of the week and the pictures that start with that letter. That way students are given a visual cue to the correct answer.
  - Or, eliminate the distractors 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.

t	T	b	B
†	Ɔ	b	†
t	Ɔ	b	Ɔ
t	Ɔ	B	b
t	T	t	T
t	†	t	†

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. This was my students' favorite game!



# Day 4

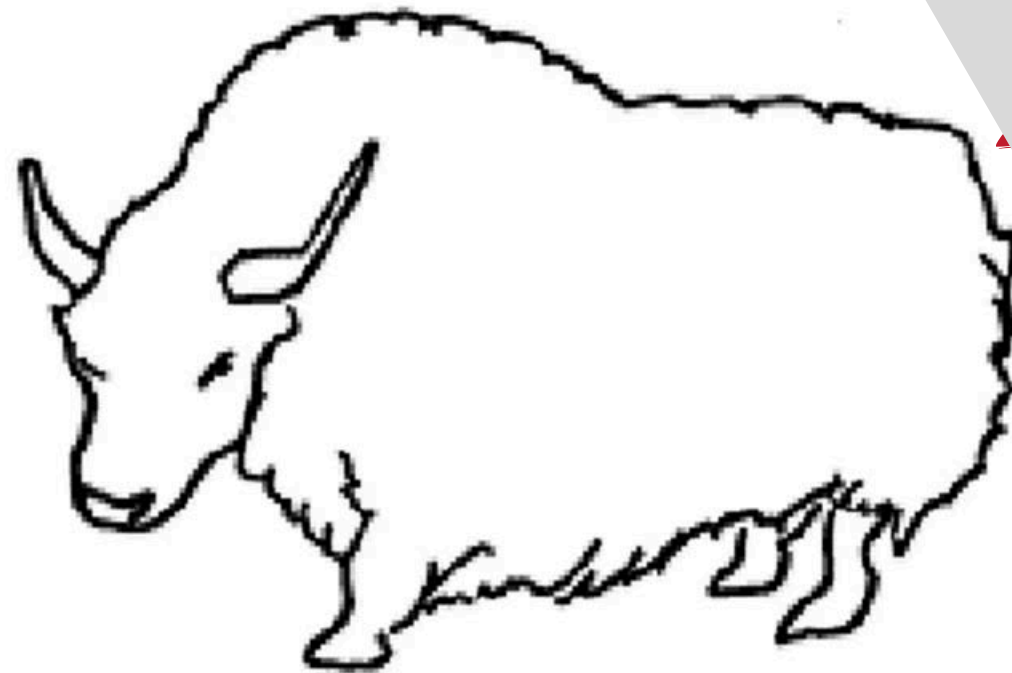
Each week has a craft that is specifically designed so students can do much of it independently.



## Yarny Yak

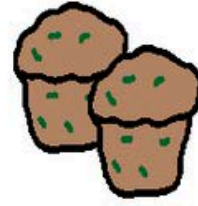


- This craft is specifically designed for students with severe disabilities to enable them to complete it as independently as possible.
- This craft also addresses the sensory needs many of our students have.
- Print out the yak silhouette onto cardstock
- Apply glue to interior of silhouette
  - Either student or teacher should apply the glue depending on the learning level of your students
- Give students a pile of clipped pieces of yarn to spread on the glue
  - Allow your students to do the snipping if they are able. Rubber band a wad of yarn together to make it easier for students to cut. This also gives them more sensory input (tactile and visual) than just snipping into smaller pieces.
- For the eyes, give students a cotton ball
- Differentiation
  - Again, consider outlining border and give students a tactile border of v





# Zucchini Muffins



- 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 recipe directions or make a copy for each student
    - *For students that are visually overwhelmed, cut apart the recipe and mount each step on a separate index card*
  - You will need access to an oven
- Directions
  - As a class make muffins following the recipe

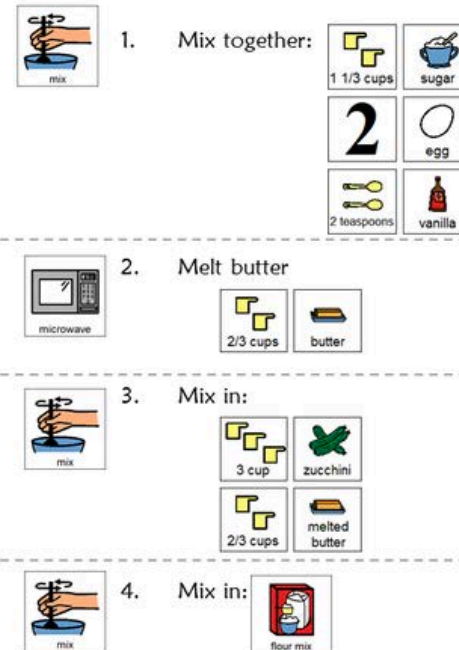
Ahead of time, you will want to make up the flour mix:

- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg

## Ingredient Labels



## Recipe



# Day 5

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



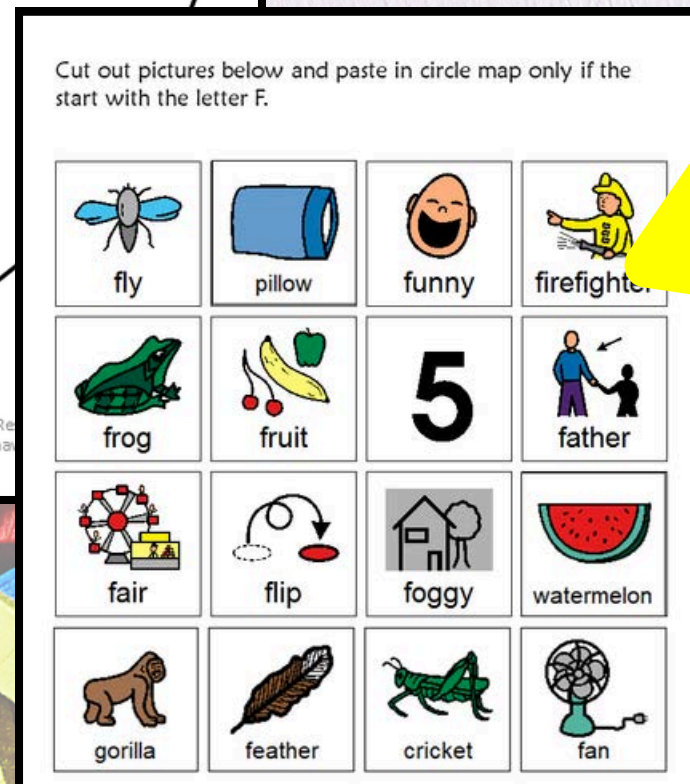
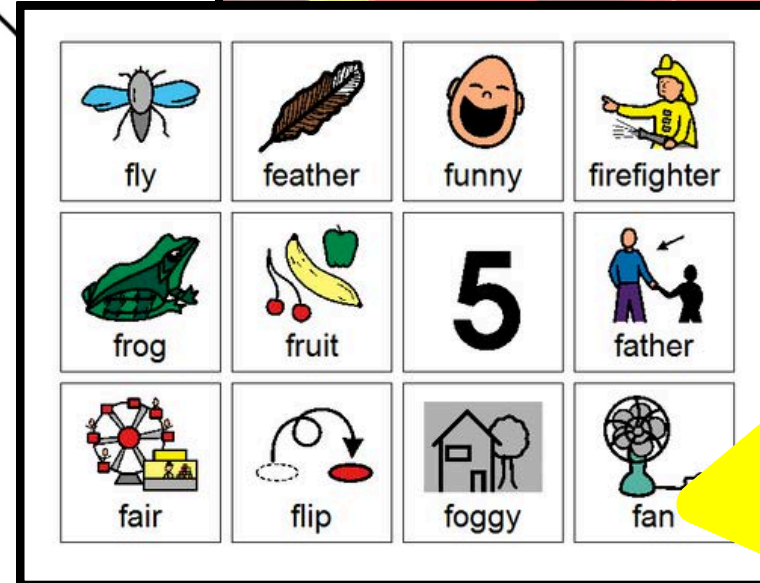
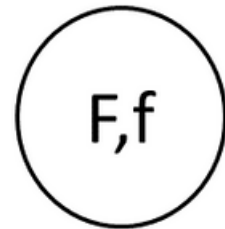
# Day 1

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.



ChristaJoy, 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

There are sorting activities.

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

Directions for differentiation are included.

S,s		V,v	
			
			
			
			

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.

S,s		V,v	
s	S	v	V
ſ	ꞑ	ꝛ	ꝝ
ꝛ	ꝝ	Ꝟ	Ꝟ
s	S	v	V
S	S	v	V

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.



## Letter K collage



- Directions
  - Print out one copy per student of the upper-case letter template on cardstock
  - Paint the interior of the letter J with white glue
  - Empty Kool-Aid powder into a cup
  - Let students sprinkle powder onto interior of letter template
- Differentiation
  - Different types of Kool-Aid will have different scents and colors. FUN!
  - For students that have a hard time pouring things, make a small hole in the Kool-Aid envelope so powder will come out slowly when held over paper



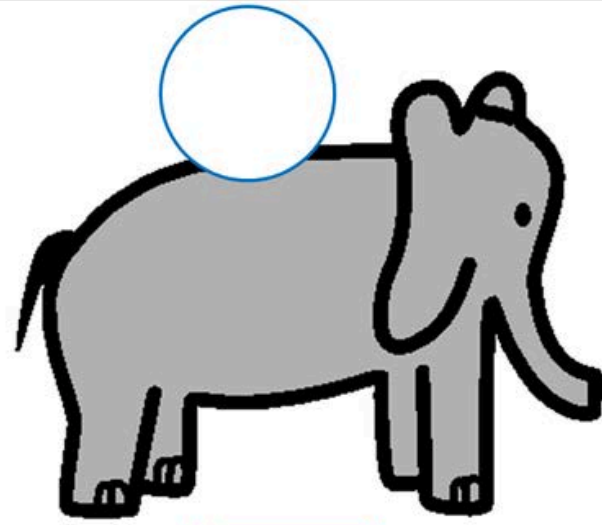
Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2022 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox

# Day 3

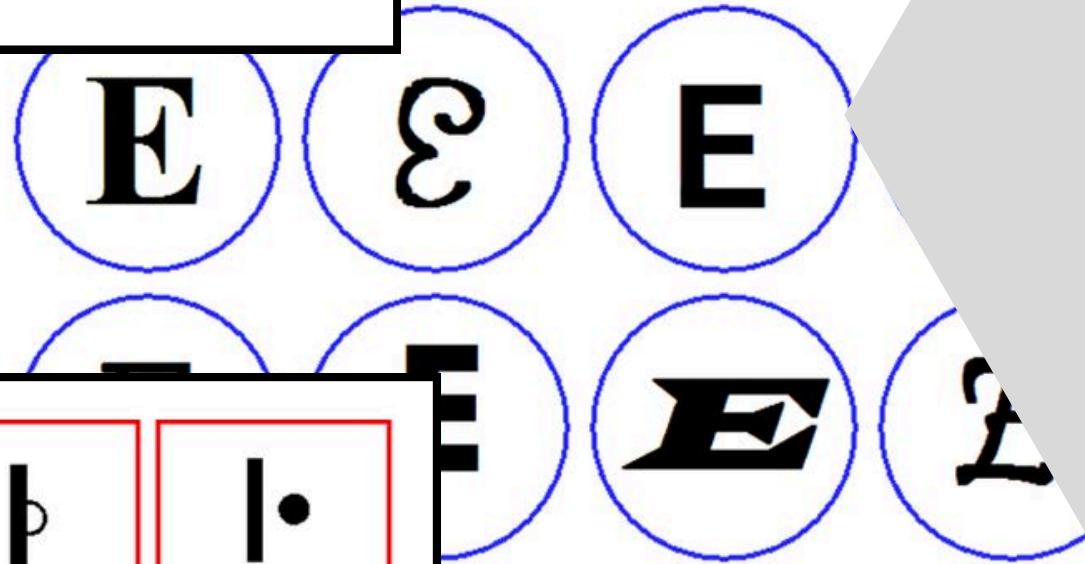
Students make a collage using a letter template and an item for that letter of the week. There are modifications and ways to differentiate included.



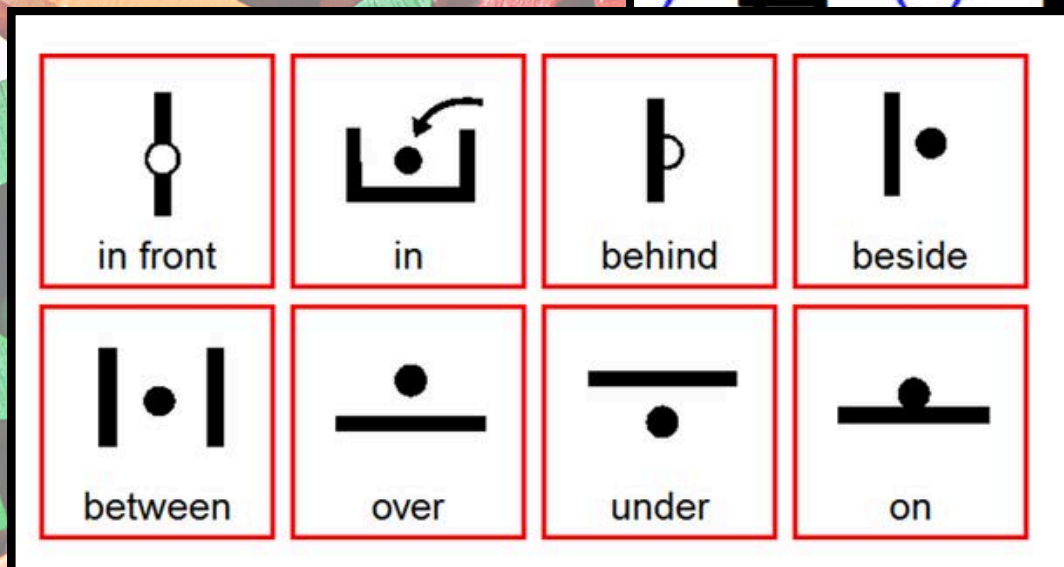
# Day 4



The letter E is  the elephant.



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

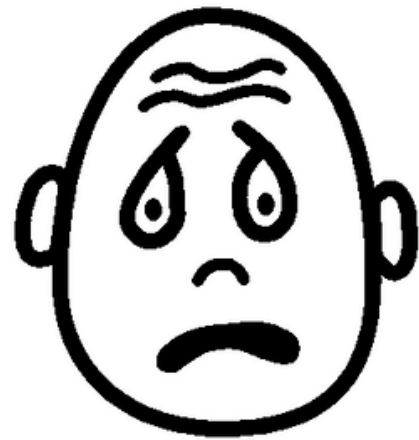




But sometimes things change.



Change can be scary.



Page 5

There are things I can do  
to help me deal with  
changes.




Page 6

# Day 5

Each unit has a social story that has photos and simple text and relates to that letter of the week. It also comes in a black and white booklet.
















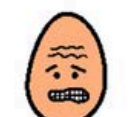



# Change Makes Me Feel

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

## Emotions to use on previous page

 okay	 afraid	 confused	 curious
 disappointed	 excited	 frustrated	 happy
 mad	 nauseated	 sad	 surprised
 terrible	 uncomfortable	 upset	 worried
 great			

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

There is an individual activity that relates to that social story. 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

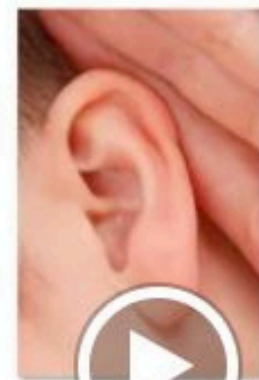


The Letter I

By Christa Joy

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

Watch the movie about Listening



Listen



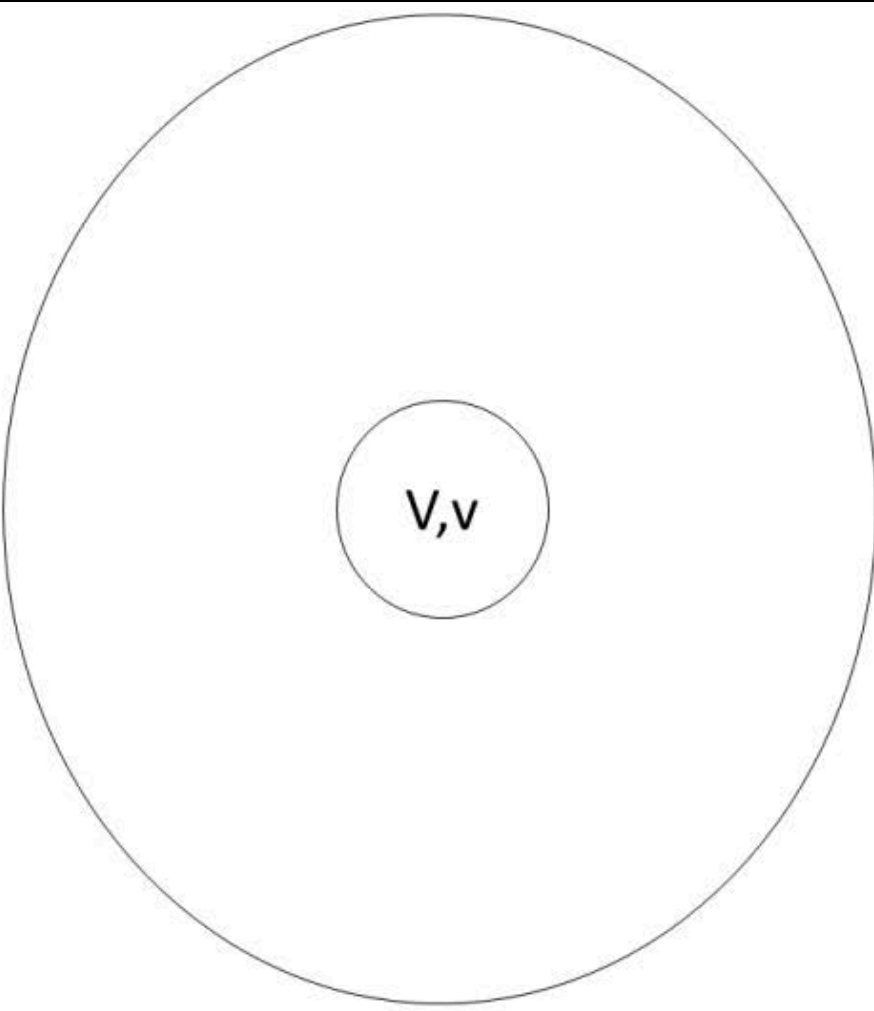
By  
Christa Joy



Great for review

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





























































Place the pictures in the circle map that start with the letter V.



Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids  
The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved  
Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox



Perfect for all learning levels.

V,v	S,s																				
	<p>Sort the following into the correct column depending on what letter they begin with.</p> <table border="1"><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p><small>Christa Joy, Special Needs for Special Kids The Picture Communication Symbols ©1981-2019 by Tobii Dynavox. All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker® is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox</small></p>																				
																					
																					
																					
																					

The second set of slides uses color for differentiation and extra support for students who may need it.



**Still have questions?**

**Reach out at [specialneedsforspecialkids@gmail.com](mailto:specialneedsforspecialkids@gmail.com)**

**I will answer your question personally and promptly.**

