

Adventures in Pine Hollow & Milestones in Reading

Letters to Little Words

Language Arts



Begin to Read,
from Alphabet to
3-Letter Words



 Pine Hollow 

Ebook Version Printing Instructions: If you'd like to print this resource in its entirety, print the pages single-sided in color or black and white, and hole-punch or bind on the left side.

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Welcome to . . .



I am thrilled -- and humbled -- you've chosen to share your homeschool journey with us! I am so pleased to meet you in this way, connecting over our shared love for our families!

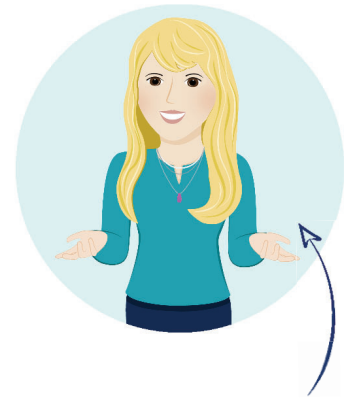
I'm Kaeryn Brooks, the creator of Pine Hollow, I began writing curriculum to meet the needs of my own family, when some of my children struggled and grew disenchanted with learning. They'd lost their joy!

There just had to be a way to bring the joy of learning to every child, no matter how they preferred learning. So the writing began, trying (sometimes succeeding, sometimes not so much), and pulling together the kinds of experiences I wanted my own family to have, developing new ways of appealing to all the ways children learn. After all, I had one child of every flavor! (Or so it seemed!)

That's where Pine Hollow comes from -- from my family to yours.

My friends and their friends started asking what I used. My husband came home with a website without telling me (*I'm not the only one who has had that happen, am I?*), and next thing I know, I'm sharing my vision with families that want the same thing I wanted:

interactive, vibrant experiences that created a rich and wonderful family culture.



Virtual Me,
a significant improvement over the usual Morning Me...



This is what we bring to Pine Hollow Language Arts:

- Gradual, immersive progression from alphabet skills to fluent reading
- Adventurous critter stories with "I-want-to-keep-reading" cliffhangers
- Rich phonics instruction -- a great foundation for reading & spelling
- Unique interactive learning experiences: phonics character cards, decoding and reading games, story fun skills practice & more!
- Fun workpages that get little learners using what they've encountered
- Time for real life, reading together, and enjoying new discoveries

You'll find that I'm here with you on the journey, with remarks and sidebars throughout this guide. I hope this has given you a glimpse inside the heart of Pine Hollow. I also hope you feel as though you are a part of our family, now. And your new Pine Hollow family is just a phone call away for help or support.

It is my sincere hope that while you explore different times and places this year, you will also have the chance to show your child the opportunities in the here and now that will last an eternity.

Your Adventure Awaits! -- Kaeryn



Letters to Little Words

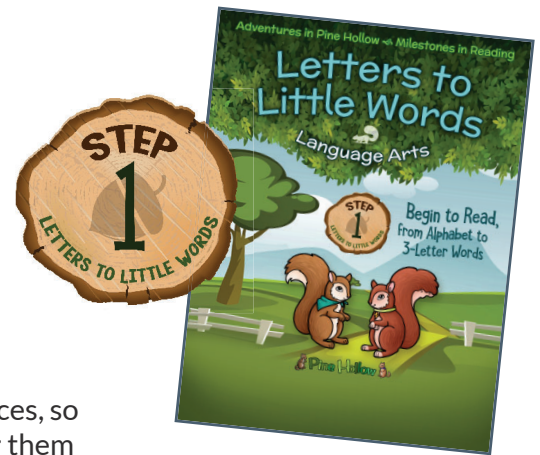
is the first program in the Pine Hollow Language Arts Series
36-WEEK PROGRAM

Letters to Little Words is designed for students who are showing interest in reading, or who have learned some or all alphabet names, and are ready to begin learning the phonics sounds for all of the letters in the alphabet.

By the end of this program, students will:

- know all the sounds for the 26 letters of the alphabet
- be decoding easy three- and four-letter words
- be able to write all of their letters
- have mastered many essential life skills
- have the opportunity to learn the phonograms below

ear	ir	ur	er	wor	sh	th
ch	ph	wh	ee	oa	ay	ai
oi	oy	kn	gn	ck	ng	aw
au	ar	or	tch	dge		



These phonograms are repeated in depth in Syllables to Sentences, so you can decide whether it is right for your student to encounter them now or in the next program. The overlap provides opportunity for repetition and additional decoding practice.



Syllables to Sentences

18-WEEK PROGRAM

For students who have mastered the basic phonics sounds and are starting or ready to begin reading three-letter words such as bat, pin, get, fun, or rod.

When they complete this program, students will be decoding, reading and spelling five- to six-letter words and reading short sentences.



Paragraphs to Pages

18-WEEK PROGRAM

For students who have mastered the basic phonics sounds and are ready to add more difficult phonograms and spelling patterns.

When they complete this program, students will have read through 36 easy reading stories, increasing their decoding and reading fluency skills.



Stories to Short Chapters

36-WEEK PROGRAM

For students who are reading short paragraphs with some assistance. Students will read fun, vocabulary-controlled stories, play games, and develop their spelling and vocabulary skills.

When they complete this program, students will have read through 36 easy reading stories to increase fluency skills.



Readers to Real Books

36-WEEK PROGRAM

For students who ready to read, or just reading short chapter books. They will progress throughout the year to be ready to read any middle grade book.

When they complete this program, students will have gained reading comprehension and reading speed to become fluent readers.

WHAT'S TO LOVE IN PINE HOLLOW?



Language arts can intimidate some students.

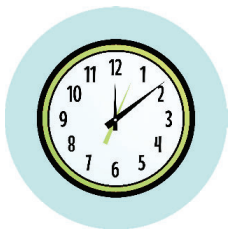
But in Pine Hollow, there are constant adventures -- all premised on **JOY!**

Joy of finding new critter friends and their own growing confidence in reading.

I love seeing that!

- Kaerlyn

It's an Adventure You Will Love!



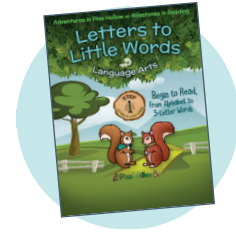
YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE PINE HOLLOW

Pine Hollow programs can be completed at a pace that fits your student's progression, sped up or slowed down.



PINE HOLLOW PROGRAMS ENGAGE ALL STUDENTS

No matter which type of learner your student is, there are active learning opportunities, including games, flashcards, hands-on learning and more, that engage every student!



THIS GUIDE = HQ

This guide is meant to be your headquarters -- feel free to scribble all over it! Write student initials and grades next to completed items.

It's an Adventure They Will Love!



PINE HOLLOW CRITTERS OF ALL KINDS

Students will meet all kinds of critters in Pine Hollow -- an always hungry chipmunk, a gang of sneaky raccoons, scurrying rat cops, and so many more! Young learners will connect with their romping, fun antics!



PINE HOLLOW PROGRAMS KEEP THEM READING

Exciting cliffhangers and heart-tugging, delightful stories keep them interested in moving forward. Workbook pages reinforce the "what-will-happen-next" story book-style magic!

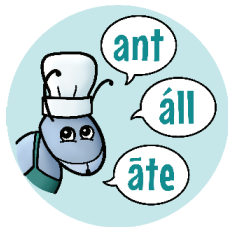


INTERACTIVE WORKPAGES

Students will be drawn into the workpages, designed to have them coloring, predicting story outcomes, drawing, finding correct answers, and even coming up with "what's next" ideas of their own!

HOW WILL PINE HOLLOW PHONICS BENEFIT YOUR STUDENT?

How We Create Confident Readers



WE INTRODUCE MULTIPLE SOUNDS

Students learn all of the sounds of a letter or phonogram at once, encouraging students to try sounds as they decode, and accelerating reading.

How This Benefits the Student:

- Reduces confusion by introducing all the sounds at once, rather than over a period of time
- Encourages actively trying sounds to decode
- Builds decoding confidence



WE TEACH MULTIPLE-LETTER PHONOGRAMS

Students will learn sounds for multiple-letter phonograms such as “dge” or “ai” or “igh.” These additional phonograms provide a broad and solid system of sounds available for decoding.

How This Benefits the Student:

- Phonograms promote amazing spelling skills
- The phonograms build faster decoding / reading speeds
- Phonograms are more reliable for decoding than old-school rules that are broken more often than kept
- More difficult words can be broken into readable segments, such as **kn igh t**



STUDENTS SPEAK, WRITE & SEE

Students should be encouraged to speak the letter or phonogram as they write it, and as they create the letter on paper, they are seeing it.

How This Benefits the Student:

- Seeing, saying, writing all together accesses several of the intelligences of students (visual, auditory, bodily-kinesthetic)
- Offers better initial imprinting
- Supports easier learning retention



WE PROVIDE SMALL-LINED PAPER

Student handwriting sheets and workbooks are size-optimized to utilize fine motor skills. Overly large lines use major muscle groups, which thwarts the development of the correct skills.

How This Benefits the Student:

- Provides solid fine-motor practice from the very beginning
- Helps students train early in key letter formation skills
- Correct formation skills are honed when there is not a lot of room for error

NOTE! Some students may lag behind in their fine motor and handwriting skills. Their struggle is not a lack of effort. Our small-lined paper will help students practice and develop fine motor skills. In the meantime, they may continue to develop their reading skills. Be patient as they develop these skills and take time for plenty of practice.



— Kaeryn

LETTERS TO LITTLE WORDS

WEEK 1 - ARE YOU READY TO READ?



Phonics Focus Reading Skills & Fine Motor Practice

Learn:

- To write on lined paper
- To hold your pencil correctly
- To create pre-lettering forms
- To work from left to right
- To write your first name



DAY 1

Phonics Cards | See Notes
Familiarize yourself with “Tatty’s Dessert Plate” in this guide and then introduce to student.

Mac’s ABC Adventures | None This Wk.
Mac & Nip’s Handwriting Set | Page 1

Learning the Letters in Your Name

Use the additional handwriting pages from the back of this guide to show your student how to spell their name. Showing them what letters make up their name.

DAY 2

Phonics Cards | Card T-8
Introduce the pre-lettering forms as shown on Card T-8. Teach the lines of writing paper shown on the same card as well. Work on correct pencil grip.

Mac & Nip’s Handwriting Set | Page 2
Mac’s MYO Phonics Readers | Page 1

Write Your Name

Use the additional handwriting pages from the back of this guide to show your student how to make each letter in their name. As you do so, instruct your student on correct pencil grip.

DAY 3

Phonics Cards | Card T-8
Introduce the idea of reading and writing from left to right from Card T-8.

Mac & Nip’s Handwriting Set | Page 3

Phonics Cards | Card T-8
Find Pre-Letter Shapes
Help your student find straight lines, diagonal lines, circles and “rainbow” arches around the house, naming them as you go. See Phonics card T-4 for additional information.

DAY 4

Phonics Cards | Card T-8
Review what you’ve learned this week about the lines on the writing paper. Practice correct pencil grip.

Mac & Nip’s Handwriting Set | Page 4

Practice Writing Your Name

Use the additional handwriting pages from the back of this guide to write your student’s name and have them copy it several times. As your student is practicing writing their own name, remind them to hold the pencil correctly.

NOTES

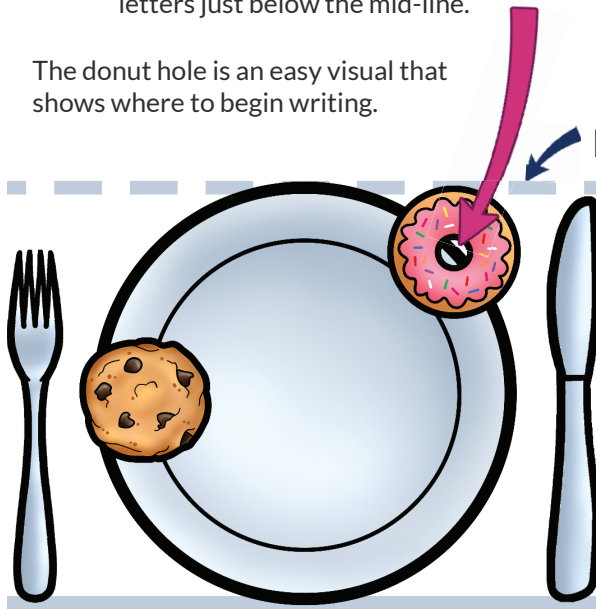
COMPLETE THESE DAY 1:

Introduce "Tatty's Dessert Plate" |

- Tatty the Mouse loves to bake, and she'll appear in later stories.
- Her dessert plate **helps students create the circular form of many letters** of the alphabet.
- Young learners often don't understand where to start circular letters just below the mid-line.
- The letter "a" is an excellent example.

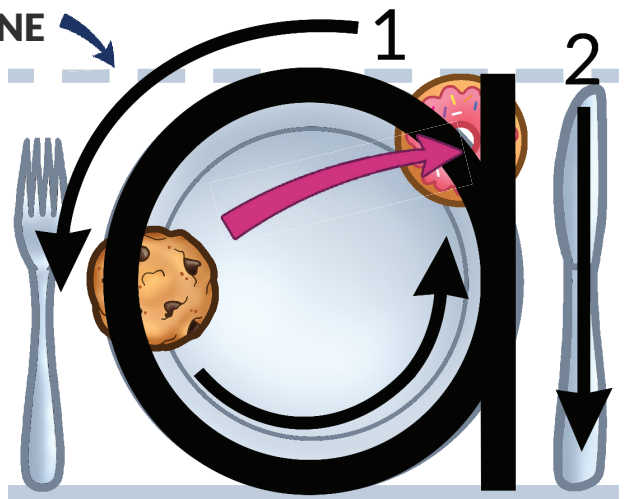
- 1** Young learners often don't understand where to start circular letters just below the mid-line.

The donut hole is an easy visual that shows where to begin writing.

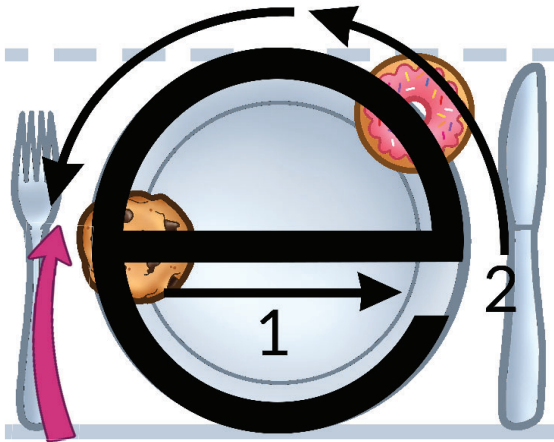


- 2** By starting at the donut hole, a student learns good handwriting form in creating round circles.

The habit of starting at the donut hole also lays the foundation for later success with cursive writing.

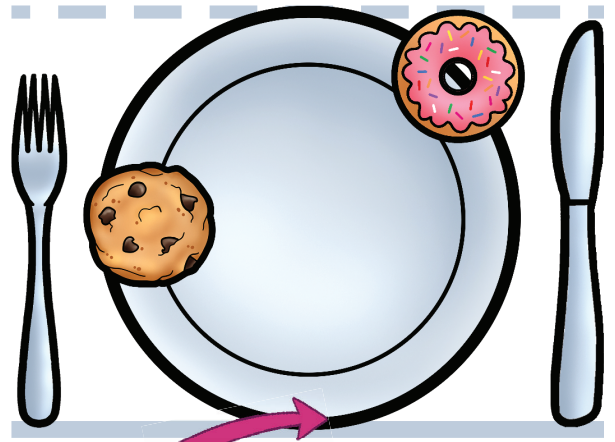


- 3** Students will learn to go around the rim of the plate in a counter-clockwise motion to create the letter.



The cookie helps students to learn where to start writing the letter "e," drawing a line to the right, then continuing around the circle!

- 4** To help students find the point at first, it may be helpful to draw dots just below the mid-line, about a letter width apart for them to start their letters.



BASELINE

The top of the rim of the plate is at the mid-line, and the bottom of the plate is on the base line.

LETTERS TO LITTLE WORDS

WEEK 2 - THE LETTER A



Phonics Focus

The Letter A Card #1

Learn:

- A's three sounds
- The shape of "A" and "a"
- How to write "A" and "a"
- Make an "A" phonics reader
- Learn the sight word "a"



DAY 1

Phonics Cards | Card 1

Introduce the "A" Card.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN,

look over "How to Teach Letters and Phonograms," on pages 16-17 in this guide.

Mac's ABC Adventures | Pages 1-2
Pages 3-4

Mac & Nip's Handwriting Set | Page 5

Hands-On Phonics Pack
Collage for "A"

DAY 2

Phonics Cards | Card 1

Learn the "A" Character Card:
"Mac won an Acorn Award"

Mac's ABC Adventures | Pages 5-6
Page 11

Mac & Nip's Handwriting Set | Page 5

Lifeskills | See Notes
Spell Your First Name

DAY 3

Phonics Cards | Card 1
Review the "A" Card

Mac's ABC Adventures | Pages 7-8
Page 12

Mac & Nip's Handwriting Set | Page 6
Mac's MYO Phonics Readers | The Letter "A"

Lifeskills | See Notes
Write Your First Name

DAY 4

Other Activity | See Notes
Hide and Seek "A's"

Mac's ABC Adventures | Pages 9-10
Page 13

Mac & Nip's Handwriting Set | Page 6

Hands-On Phonics Pack
Cupboard Search Party

NOTES

DAY 1:

Introduce the "A" Card |



The A Card

Give your student the "a" phonics card to hold



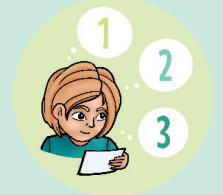
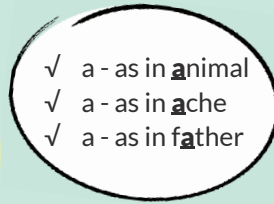
Trace the A

Ask your student to trace the letter to see how it is written



Sounds of A

Share the three sounds of "a" and say them a few times



Write A & a

Write "A" and "a" in your handwriting sheets



Tell student what uppercase letters are for:

- ✓ first letter of names such as their name, and cities, streets, stores, etc.
- ✓ first letter of the first word of a sentence
- ✓ first letter of most words in a title of a book or poem or piece of art

DAY 2:

Learn the "A" Character Card |

- Repeat the Day 1 icon instructions again with your student
- Introduce the "A" Character Card, "Mac won an Acorn Award" to help your student remember:
 - ✓ that "a" makes three sounds
 - ✓ the order of the three sounds, present in the character's name in the correct order
 - ✓ the visual form of the letter is shown in the acorn award to prompt memory of correct letter formation

Why Is the Order of the Sounds Important?

The sounds on the phonogram and character cards are listed in order from most commonly used to least, to help students try the most common sound first when they are decoding a word.

Spell Your First Name | Guide your student in learning to spell their first name.

DAY 3:

Write Your First Name |

Guide your student as they practice writing their name. Use the reproducible handwriting pages from this guide.

DAY 4:

Hide and Seek "A's" |

While your student covers their eyes or goes into another room, hide the "a" card near or in an object that begins with "a." Then, give them some help finding it by going around the room pronouncing the names of possible hiding places that also begin with "a."

HOW TO TEACH LETTERS & PHONOGRAMS

Phonics Cards & Character Cards

Phonics cards teach letter and phonogram sounds, demonstrate letter formation, and are used with fun learning games.

Character cards demonstrate letter formation with pictures that solidify letter orientation for young learners.

Phonogram cards are at the center of learning to read in Pine Hollow.

The cards help enable word-building as soon as students learn letter sounds and included games keep the learning going in fun new ways each week!

-Kaerlyn



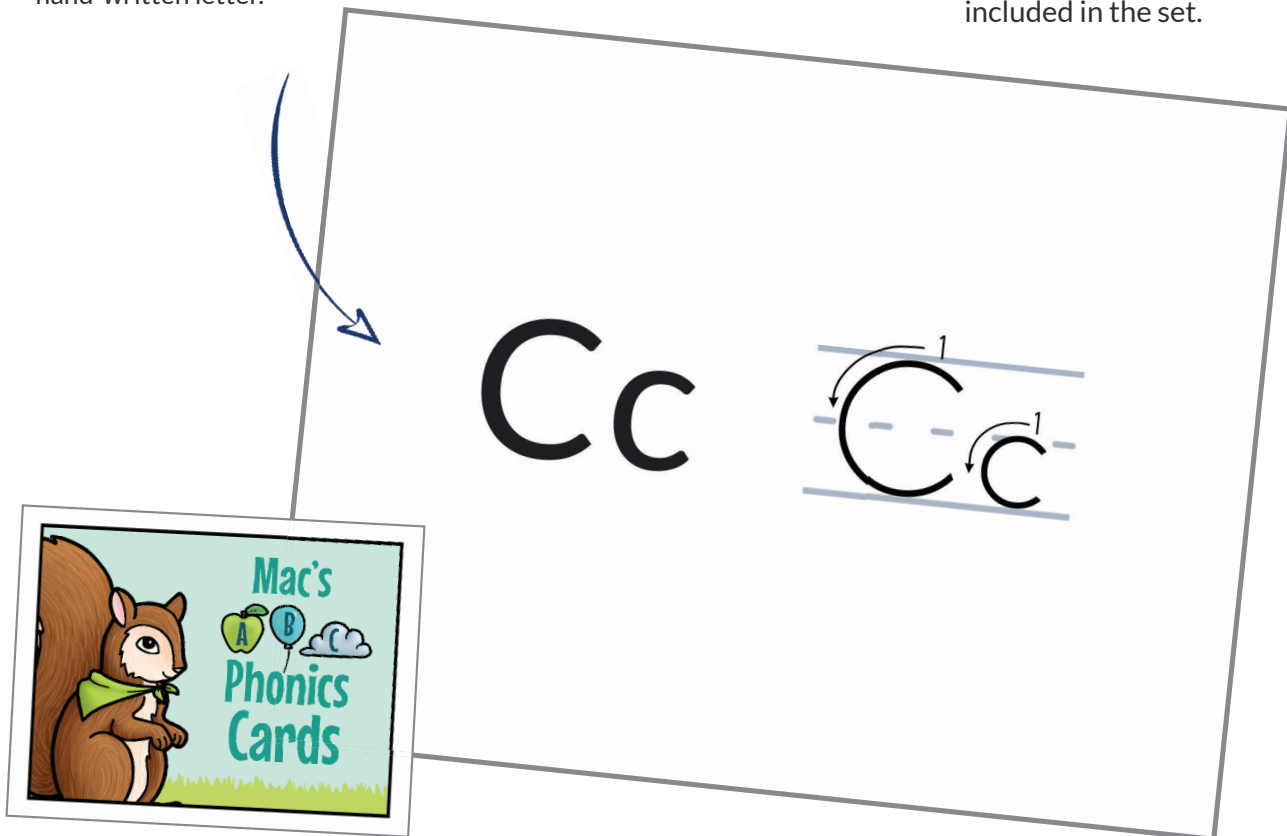
Teaching Letter & Phonogram Cards

The Front

Shows Letter Formation

Picture shows how the letter looks in print, and how write a hand-written letter.

Phonics cards reinforce rapid recall of letter and phonogram sounds. Students can put them together to build words and play fun reinforcement games included in the set.



The Reverse

Helps You Teach the Sounds

The sounds each letter or phonogram makes are shown with example words.

The Reverse Helps You Teach the Sounds

Pronunciation is shown, as well as directions on how to create the letter.



C

1st Sound
"hard"
C
as in cat

2nd Sound
"soft"
C
as in city

Student says:
"c s"

To form the letter c:
Start at the cookie on "Tatty's Dessert Plate" just below the mid-line and make a circle counter-clockwise, bringing the bottom of the letter to the base line. Bring the stroke up, but stop before completing the circle.

Character: Cranberry Cider

Card Name "Cranberry Cider" Says Two Sounds of "C"

The character card is also listed. Its words coordinate with the sounds the letter makes.

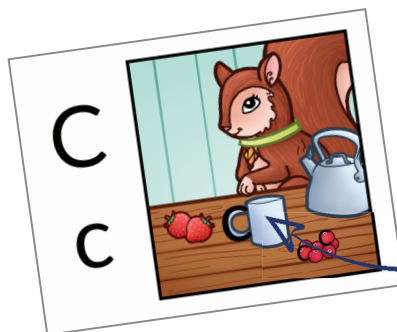
Since the letter c says "c" and "s," the character card name uses those sounds to help students recall the sounds!

Why Is the Order of the Sounds Important?

The sounds on the phonogram and character cards are listed in order from most commonly used to least, to help students try the most common sound first when they are decoding a word.

Character Cards Show Phonogram Shape

Picture shows the shape of the letter and card reverse provides an explanation of the words pictured, such as "Cranberry Cider."



Character cards include shapes that let students "see" letters in pictures, to help them write them correctly.



Advanced 2- & 3-Letter Phonogram Cards

show the sounds of the phonogram and include practice reading lists of words with that phonogram.

ch

1st Sound
ch
as in chase

2nd Sound
ch
as in chord

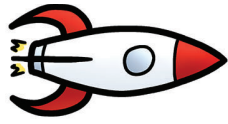
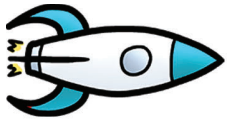
3rd Sound
ch
as in charade

Student says:
"ch k sh"

Practice for Reading Words with ch:

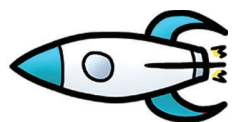
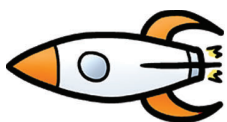
chip	chill	chosen	chime	chop
chick	chop	chunk	chirp	chuck
lunch	inch	branch	gutch	pinch
church	tuch	perch	bunch	much





Appendix 3:

Mac's ABC's Answer Key



WEEK 2 - A

<u>PAGE 3</u> ant apple acorn a - ant a - apple a - acorn	<u>PAGE 4</u> astronaut arm airplane axe anchor	<u>PAGE 5</u> 4th 2nd 3rd 5th 1st	<u>PAGE 6</u> Three 'a's Three 'A's five pairs
<u>PAGE 7</u> acorn arm ant avocado airplane axe alligator ankle	<u>PAGE 8</u> ape ant axe	<u>PAGE 9</u> apple arrow ankle ape anchor apron	<u>PAGE 10</u> angry (Mac) - alligator avocado - astronaut anchor - arrow arm - apron
<u>SHOW AND SHARE - PAGE 12</u> axe ant art		<u>SHOW AND SHARE - PAGE 13</u> a - arrow a - apple a - ankle	
ant apple acorn		a - apron a - avocado a - alligator a - astronaut	

WEEK 3 - F

<u>PAGE 17</u> football fridge fawn folder frog fire fish fox	<u>PAGE 18</u> fire fish fort fly frog four fan falcon	<u>PAGE 19</u> faucet fudge flamingo foil	<u>PAGE 20</u> Three 'f's Three 'F's six pairs
<u>PAGE 21</u> f - flower F - Firework f - fence F - Foot	<u>PAGE 22</u> cC fF Aa Ff Cc Bb Aa Ee Ff aA fF Bb avocado a flag f apron a flamingo f foot f chair c astronaut a fox f	<u>PAGE 23</u> faucet leaf elf giraffe fork cauliflower	<u>PAGE 24</u> foil fawn fan fly foil fawn fan fly
<u>SHOW AND SHARE - PAGE 26</u> fan fox fly		<u>SHOW AND SHARE - PAGE 27</u> foil fan fence	
aA Ff Ff Bb cC Cc		avocado - a fridge - f football - f flamingo - f arrow - a fawn - f	