



Daily Learning and Supporting Targets

- Opening A: I can sing the “ABC Song” to name the letters of the alphabet in order.
- Work Time A: I can show letter-sound correspondence for “t.” (RF.K.3)
 - I can identify the name of each uppercase letter.
 - I can identify the name of each lowercase letter.
 - I can look at each consonant and say its sound.
- Work Time B: I can follow directions for writing letters.
 - I can print lowercase “t.”
 - I can print uppercase “T.”

Ongoing Assessment

- Observe students during Opening A. Determine whether they can sing the names of the letters in order.
- Observe students during Work Time A and B. Determine whether they can identify the sound for the letter “t” and use the handwriting paper to print lowercase and uppercase “t.”

Agenda

1. **Opening (5 minutes)**
 - A. The Alphabet: “ABC Song”
2. **Work Time (10–15 minutes)**
 - A. Getting to Know Letters: Reviewing the Picture Keyword for “t”
 - B. Getting to Know Letters: Printing Lowercase and Uppercase “t”
3. **Closing and Assessment (2 minutes)**
 - A. Reflecting on Learning
4. **Independent Work Time (40–45 minutes)**

Teaching Notes

In advance:

- Prepare a place in the classroom to display each letter of the alphabet as it is learned (examples: on chart paper, poster paper, or a series of cards placed in order on a wall). This should be blank at the start of the year but clearly show 26 empty spaces/cards/boxes. This allows students to see that there are 26 total letters. As they learn each letter, the Keyword Picture Card will go into one of the spaces. This will become an Alphabet anchor chart.
- Review the Letter Formation Guidance document (see K–2 Skills Resource Manual).
- Gather materials for independent work rotations (see Independent Work Time).

Vocabulary

Key:

(L): Lesson-Specific Vocabulary

(T): Text-Specific Vocabulary

- horizontal, letter, vertical, word (L)
- tern (T)

Materials

- Blank Alphabet anchor chart (see Teaching Notes)
- Keyword Picture Card: “t” (one to display; from Lesson 4)
- Letter Demonstration Board (one for teacher)
- Letter Formation Guidance document (standalone document for teacher reference; see K–2 Skills Resource Manual)
- “t” handwriting paper (one per student)
- Writing utensils (one per student; optional)

Opening

A. The Alphabet: “ABC Song”

- (Suggested transition song: “ABC Song”):
 - “A b c d e f g (pause) h i j k l m n o p (pause) q r s (pause) t u v (pause) w x (pause) y and z. These are the letters we use to read and write. (Pause.) Let’s get to know them by sound and by sight.”*
- Introduce the Alphabet instructional practice:
 1. Teacher shows students the **blank Alphabet anchor chart** and invites them to sing the song again.
 2. As students sing the name of each letter, the teacher points to each empty spot in turn.
 3. After students finish the song, teacher explains that there are 26 letters in the alphabet and that each of the letters is named in the song. Each one of the blank spaces represents one of those letters. As each letter is “met,” it will be placed on the Alphabet anchor chart.

Meeting Students’ Needs

- Consider inviting students to stand and move in a circle while singing the transition song. Model how they can take a step on each letter. When they sing the lyrics “by sound,” they can cup their hands behind their ears to illustrate careful listening. When singing the lyrics “by sight,” they can make “binoculars” around their eyes with their hands to illustrate careful observing. This helps establish the idea that learning letters involves knowing the shape, name, and sound.

Work Time

A. Getting to Know Letters: Reviewing the Picture Keyword for “t”

- (Suggested transition song, sung to the tune of “I’m a Little Teapot”):

“Now we’ll learn the letters, short and tall. Get your body ready to write them all. When we learn the letters, we will shout. We know their names; we figured it out.”
- Introduce the Getting to Know Letters instructional practice:
 1. Teacher holds up Keyword Picture Card: “t” and asks:

“Who knows the name of this animal?” (tern)

“What sound do we hear at the beginning of the word ‘tern?’” (/t/)
 2. Teacher says: “Let’s all that say sound together: /t/.”
 3. Teacher invites students to feel how their tongues push against the top of their mouths behind their teeth. Teacher explains how the sound stops quickly and does not include the /uh/ sound.
 4. Teacher invites students to make the /t/ sound again.
 5. Teacher says: “This is the letter ‘t.’ This letters ‘shows’ the sound /t/. When we see it, we automatically think /t/.”
 6. Teacher says: “We know that ‘tern’ begins with the sound /t/. I wonder if we can think of any more words that begin with that sound.”
 7. Teacher asks:

“Who can share a word that begins with /t/?”
 8. Teacher records word on the board and asks:

“What letter is making our /t/ sound in this word?” (“t”)
 9. Teacher says: “Right! The letter ‘t’ says /t/. I’m going to circle ‘t’ in the words we share.”
 10. Teacher invites students to share two to three more words that begin with /t/.
 11. If time allows, repeat steps 7-10, inviting students to identify words that end with the sound /t/.
 12. Teacher says: “We have met the letter ‘t’ and we know that it shows the sound /t/. The picture of the tern will help us get the letter and sound in our memories. When we see this card, we can say ‘t,’ tern, /t/.”
 13. Teacher invites students to repeat: “‘t,’ tern, /t/.”
 14. Teacher says: “Now we can place it on our Alphabet anchor chart.”
 15. Teacher invites students to sing the “ABC Song” while he or she points to each empty box or space for each letter, stopping at “t” and placing the Keyword Picture Card in that place.

Meeting Students’ Needs

- Some students may confuse the word “tern” with “turn.” Explain that sometimes two words can sound the same but mean something completely different. Model the word “turn.” Explain that the name “tern” for the bird is not connected to the action of turning.

- If students need help thinking of new words beginning or ending with the sound /t/, offer clues. Example:
 - Point to a table and ask: "What is this called?"
- If students offer a word that begins with a different sound, remind them to notice the way /t/ feels in their mouths when they say the keyword. Ask them to repeat the word they offered and notice if the beginning sound of the word feels the same in their mouths.
- Encourage students to offer classmates' names as an option for beginning sounds.

B. Getting to Know Letters: Printing Lowercase and Uppercase "t"

- (Suggested transition song, sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot"):
 - "Now we'll write a letter, line by line. Get your hand ready to start on time. When we write a letter, we start on top. Pull down until it's time to stop."***
- Begin the Getting to Know Letters instructional practice:
 1. Teacher says: "We learned the name and the sound of the letter 't.' Now we're going to learn how to write the letter."
 2. Teacher traces the hidden "t" in the tern on the Keyword Picture Card and invites students to articulate the shape (two straight lines, one going up and down and the other going across) as they did in Lesson 4.
 3. Teacher says: "Now I will say the sound and skywrite the letter 't,' and then you can do the same."
 4. Students echo the sound and say the letter while skywriting: "/t/, 't.'"
 5. Teacher invites students to watch while he or she models proper letter formation on the **Letter Demonstration Board**:
 - "T" is a head line letter. It starts on the head line.
 - Point to the head line.
 - Pull straight down to the feet line.
 - Pick up your pencil and go back to the belly line.
 - Start from the left (toward the picture of the mouse) and pull straight across.
 - Teacher says: "'t,' tern, /t/," and invites students to repeat.
 6. Teacher distributes "t" handwriting paper and writing utensils (optional).
 7. Teacher invites students to put the tip of their fingers on the "head line" (top line corresponding to the mouse's ears), then pulling it straight down to the "belly line," and continuing through to the "feet line."
 8. Teacher invites students to lift their fingers (or pencils) off the page, find the "belly line," and make a horizontal line from left to right, crossing the vertical line.
 9. Teacher circulates to assist students as needed, checking for proper grip.
 10. Students repeat letter formation twice more.
 11. Repeat steps 3–9 with uppercase "T."
 12. Teacher says: "Great job writing the letter 't.' Remember, to make the lowercase letter 't,' (repeat letter formation directions). And when we make the capital letter 'T,' (repeat letter formation directions)."

Meeting Students' Needs

- Consider using the words “vertical” and “horizontal” to name the two types of lines during step 2.
- While modeling skywriting, emphasize pulling the vertical line from the top down and the horizontal line from left to right. Consider standing in front of the students with your back turned (while looking over your shoulder) so they can follow along.
- It can take time for students to understand when to use the lowercase version of a letter and when to use the uppercase version. When introducing letter formation for lowercase “t,” explain that this is the “t” that is most often used in reading and writing. When introducing the formation of the uppercase T, put it into the context of a name. Example:
 - “Now we will write uppercase ‘T’ like at the beginning of the names ‘Tamara,’ ‘Tom,’” etc. It is ideal to use the name of a familiar student or character whenever possible; this makes the function of uppercase letters (as an indicator of proper names) more direct and meaningful.
- Consider encouraging students to point to the body parts used in letter formation guidance (head, belly, feet) to support spatial and kinesthetic connection.

Closing and Assessment

A. Reflecting on Learning

- Before moving to Independent Work Time, consider asking one or more of the following questions:

“What is a letter?” (Responses will vary. Examples: “shows a sound,” “helps write words.”)

“What do we know about the letter ‘t’?” (Responses will vary. Examples: “two straight lines,” “shows the /t/ sound,” “is at the beginning of the word ‘tern.’”)

“What will you do today during Independent Work Time that will allow you and your classmates to be successful?” (Responses will vary. Examples: “use kind language,” “be careful with materials,” “take turns.”)

Meeting Students' Needs

- For students who need additional support organizing their ideas: Provide sentence frames. Example:
 - “When I look at my book, I will be sure to ____.”

Independent Work Time

Suggested Plan: This first cycle provides time for students to practice what it means to work independently. A brief introduction is made to materials, and expectations for work habits and social interactions are established.

Note: Three suggestions for independent activities are given. Consider using any or all of these. For example, you may want to have all students working on the same activity, or you may want to have two or three activities happening simultaneously for a set time and then rotate students through. By Cycle 2, groups not working with the teacher at a given time should be engaged in purposeful independent rotation work. Refer to the Independent and Small Group Work guidance document (see K-2 Skills Resource Manual) for more details.

Book Browsing:

- Students spend time looking at their own individual book(s).

Word Work:

- Students practice making lower- and uppercase “t” letters using the handwriting paper.
- Additional Supporting Materials:
 - “t” handwriting paper (lower- and uppercase) (one per student)
 - Pencils (one per student)

Responding to Text:

- Students draw a picture representing the Letter Story: “t.” They should include some details from the story and try to show the “t” hidden in the shape of the tern.
- Alternatively, consider inviting students to draw a picture showing other things beginning with /t/ that they encounter in their experience. Examples:
 - “tape,” “ten,” “turtle,” “ticket,” “table,” “tack,” “tadpole,” “teapot,” “top,” “tent”
- Additional Supporting Materials:
 - Blank paper and drawing supplies