

Stairway to Reading

MATERIALS

Stairway to Reading has two main components.

1

Stairway to Reading kit stored in drawers or resealable bags in classroom

- Objects for each letter of the alphabet
- Picture cards for each letter of the alphabet
- Sandpaper letters
- Plastic letters
- Word-building picture cards

2

Consumable *Stairway to Reading* Student Activity Book for each child

The book contains 26 rainbow letters for the child to practice tracing each letter. This activity reinforces sound/symbol association. Optional activity sheets are provided for handwriting practice of each upper- and lower-case letter. The word-building words are provided for the child to trace and then take home to read. There are 72 phonetic readers that can be taken home after the child has fluently read them at school. Tracking cards are at the back of the book for recording ongoing progress of authentic assessment.

Teaching Lesson Sequence

Red		Orange		Yellow		Green		Blue		Purple	
Lessons	Letters	Lessons	Letters	Lessons	Letters	Lessons	Letters	Lessons	Letters	Lessons	Letters
1 – 6	m & s	1 – 6	d & r	1 – 6	f & h	1 – 6	b & w	1 – 6	k & l	1 – 6	q & x
7 – 12	t & c	7 – 12	n & o	7 – 12	g & i	7 – 12	j & u	7 – 12	v & e	7 – 12	y & z
13 – 18	p & a	13 – 20	WORD BUILDING	13 – 20	WORD BUILDING	13 – 20	WORD BUILDING	13 – 20	WORD BUILDING	13 – 20	WORD BUILDING
19 – 26	WORD BUILDING	21 – 32	READERS	21 – 32	READERS	21 – 31	READERS	21 – 32	READERS	21 – 32	READERS
27 – 38	READERS										

Lessons Provided in This Activity Book...

Rainbow Letters Lessons

PURPOSE: Visual-kinesthetic way to practice writing letters of the alphabet.

After completing a **Sandpaper Letters** lesson, give the child the corresponding **Rainbow Letters** lesson pages. Invite the child to trace a letter with his or her index finger while saying the sound aloud. Encourage the child to choose three of his or her favorite colored pencils. Invite the child to use one of the colored pencils to trace the letter on the page just like he or she used a finger on the sandpaper letter. Emphasize beginning on the dot. Direct the children to make a rainbow letter by tracing the letter with the other two colors. Invite the child to see how many colored letters he or she can form inside the “bubble letter” to make a letter of beautiful colors! This lesson helps the child develop muscle memory of the letter’s formation by the repeated practice with a rainbow of colors. Track and document the child’s progress by recording what you observe on the comments page on the back of the **Tracking Card**.

Letter Formation Lessons

PURPOSE: Practice writing letters learned during Sandpaper Letters and Rainbow Letters lessons.

Invite the child to practice writing the letters of the alphabet he or she just practiced in the **Rainbow Letters** lesson. If a child is having difficulty holding a pencil or struggling to trace the letters, you may skip this lesson with the child and concentrate on fine motor skill activities instead. Return to the Letter Formation lessons periodically throughout the year to assess the child’s fine motor skill development. Track and document the child’s progress by recording what you observe on the child’s **Tracking Card** at the back of this book. Complete the set of lessons for the two letters by inviting the child to do the **Letter & Picture Match** lessons, then introduce the next set of letters even if the child isn’t ready for extensive letter formation.

Writing Word-Building Words

PURPOSE: Practice writing words built during Word-Building lessons (encoding).

Ask the child to practice writing the words he or she just built with the plastic letters. These lessons are for children whose fine motor skills are developed enough to practice writing. Some of these lessons have a matching or coloring exercise provided on the back. If a child is having difficulty holding a pencil or a hard time tracing the letters, you may want to skip this lesson and concentrate on fine motor skill activities for a while. Track and document each child’s progress by recording what you observe on the child’s **Tracking Card** at the back of this book. Continue on to the Leveled Books even if a child’s fine motor skills are still developing and writing these words is difficult for him or her.

Reading Levels 1, 2, and 3 Books

PURPOSE: Provide immediate reading practice using the letter sounds and high-frequency sight words the child has learned (decoding).

When the child completes the Word-Building lessons of any color, tear out and fold a **Level 1** phonetic book for reading practice. These books use only the sounds studied. After the child reads the book to you, an assistant, or a volunteer, send the first book home with the **News Letter** to encourage family and friends to listen to the child read for even more practice. **Level 2** books provide practice with a more challenging text. **Level 3** books add words with consonant blends. Some children may initially read only books from levels 1 and 2. **Level 3** books may be added later as children begin to hear blends. Track and document each child’s progress by recording what you observe on the child’s **Tracking Card** in the back of this book.