

# First Grade

Autauga County Schools  
Summer 2020

*Next year brings many exciting experiences for your child as he/she moves to first grade.*

*In an effort to prepare our incoming first grade students, we are providing you with readiness information and activities you can use during the summer to help your child begin the school year ready to learn.*

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”  
- Jane D. Hull

## Physical Development

The student...

- forms letters correctly (left to right, top to bottom). [Handwriting](#)
- knows how to properly hold a pencil, using the correct grip.
- holds child-sized scissors correctly and practices cutting straight and curved lines.
- is beginning to learn to tie.
- can button, snap, and zip.
- has good hand-eye coordination.

## Literacy

The student...

- recognizes and writes first and last names.
- names all uppercase and lowercase letters.
- knows all sounds for letters.
- writes from left to right on lined paper.
- reads kindergarten level sight words.
- reads nonsense words like nuf, lig, geb, vam, bot.
- sounds out and reads decodable words like mop, fin, bag, pet, rib.
- reads “Level 1” or “Beginning Readers” with ease.
- rereads previously read books for fun.
- identifies a simple sentence.
- spells age appropriate words in writing.

## Numbers & Counting

The student...

- counts and identifies numbers 0-20.
- writes numbers 0-20 correctly on lined paper.
- understands the concepts of numbers and quantities (*greater than/less than*).
- adds basic facts using objects or pictures.
- understands the concept of adding numbers together to make 10.
- can compare two objects to explain which object has “more of” or “less of” the attribute in question.
- can sort and classify objects.
- can describe objects in the environment using names of shapes (*triangle, square, rectangle, hexagon, rhombus, circle, cube, pyramid, sphere, cone*).
- use simple shapes to form larger shapes.



## Social/Emotional Development

### The student...

- listens to an adult and follows directions.
- stays on task at least 10 minutes during independent work.
- maintains attention during a 10-15 minute lesson/story.
- carries out chores/jobs independently.
- works, plays, and shares with others.
- knows how to wait for his/her turn.
- uses words to solve conflicts.
- listens to an adult and follows directions.



## Summer Learning Challenge

**Kids who read during the summer  
can BEAT the Summer Slide!**

**Sign up for these FREE and  
engaging resources.**

ALSDE-Summer Reading Challenge

Understood

Reading Rockets

Scholastic Reading Game-"Homebase"

**To provide your child with the  
best start on their first grade  
year, you can...**

- take time each day to talk to your child about anything and everything.
- read to your child every day and talk about the story and /or details with them. (See "First Grade Reading List" below).
- ask them to read environmental text like road signs, store signs, packages at the grocery store, etc.
- take your child to pick out new books at the library and bookstore. Encourage family members to give books for birthdays and holidays.
- help your child read appropriately leveled books. Be enthusiastic about reading with them and ask them questions about their reading.
- use letter magnets to practice spelling out words and sentences.
- encourage your child to put together puzzles
- provide them with materials to draw, color, and write.
- do fun physical activities together such as dancing, riding bikes, or playing catch.
- support and encourage your child's independence with brushing teeth, washing hands, putting on shoes, and buckling their seatbelt.
- provide opportunities to play with other children.
- encourage work values such as effort, persistence, and initiative.
- encourage responsibility by having them pick up toys, care for belongings, and assist with simple chores.
- provide small objects such as beads or cereal for your child to practice counting, adding, and subtracting.

***Learning Today...***

***Leading Tomorrow***

# First Grade Summer Reading List

1. ***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day***  
by Judith Viorst, Ray Cruz (illus.)
2. ***The Bears' Picnic***  
by Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain
3. ***Bedtime for Frances***  
by Russell Hoban, Garth Williams (illus.)
4. ***Goodnight Moon***  
by Margaret Wise Moon
5. ***Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys, and Their Monkey Business***  
by Esphyr Slobodkina
6. ***Franklin Rides a Bike***  
by Paulette Bourgeois, Brenda Clark (illus.)
7. ***Freckle Juice***  
by Judy Blume, Sonia O. Lisker (illus.)
8. ***If You Give a Mouse a Cookie***  
by Laura Joffe Numeroff, Felicia Bond (illus.)
9. ***The Listening Walk***  
by Paul Showers
10. ***The Little Engine That Could***  
by Watty Piper, Geroge Hauman (illus.)
11. ***Make Way for Ducklings***  
by Robert McCloskey
12. ***Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia***  
by Peggy Parish, Wallace Tripp (illus.)
13. ***Quick as a Cricket***  
by Audrey Wood, Don Wood (illus.)
14. ***Ten Apples Up on Top***  
by Theodore LeSieg (Dr. Suess), Roy McKie (illus.)
15. ***There's an Alligator Under My Bed***  
by Mercer Mayer
16. ***The True Story of the Three Little Pigs***  
by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (illus.)
17. ***Owl Diaries #1: Eva's Treetop Festival***  
by Rebecca Elliott
18. ***Henry & Mudge: The First Book of Their Adventures***  
by Cynthia Rylant, Sucie Stevenson (illus.)
19. ***Pete the Cat's Train Trip***  
by James Dean
20. ***Rosie's Walk***  
by Pat Hutchins

# I Can Name My Letters

## Directions:

- Review and check your child's letter recognition before starting 1<sup>st</sup> grade.
- Mark the ones they do not know.
- Help your child explore more with letters and try again another day.

## List 1

a c b C A d e D a A C c D E  
n f m F P g h N i j k L J K  
p O o M r t P q S s U Q w u  
X U y t m W z x R n Y I o Z

## List 2

t a e x A g c U m n T R s w  
X v N C d R l i E v o f G y  
J Q u f h k X B K d l O z I  
D c S q b P X e L p s j T H

a

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

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o

p

q

r

s

t

u

v

w

x

y

z

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

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L

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V

W

X

Y

Z

a

g



q		
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# Handwriting? So What?

As kids move into first grade and beyond, handwriting expectations in the classroom get more and more intense. **What happens when kids have poor habits related to letter construction? They simply can't keep up.** There is a reason we teach kids to form their uppercase letters from the top down and that there is a specific approach to making each letter...and the reason is - it's *faster!* Poor construction equals slow, inefficient writing.

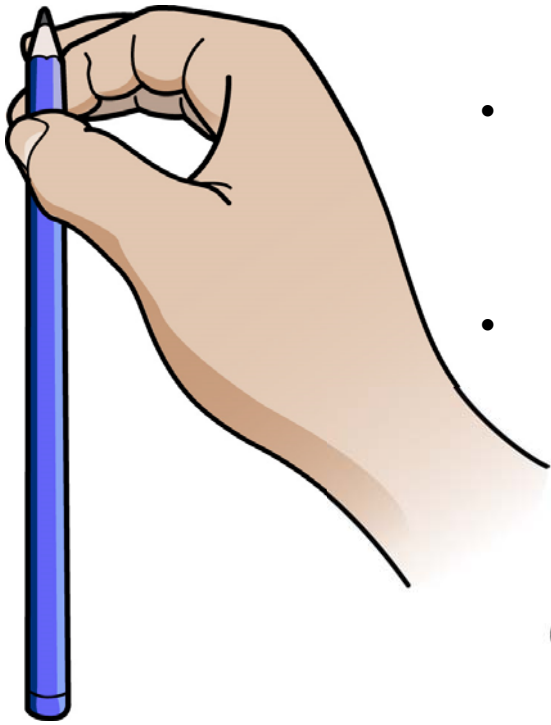
*Research shows there's something special about language development and the act of handwriting. In studies, kids who practice handwriting do better at reading and spelling. The reason? Some experts believe that forming letters by hand while learning sounds activates reading circuits in the brain that promote literacy. ("Expert Corner" blog post by Sheldon H. Horowitz, Ed.E. Sept 24, 2018)*

*Blank lined paper and an upper/lowercase letter formation handout has been included for students to continue the development of their handwriting and fine motor skills over the summer.*

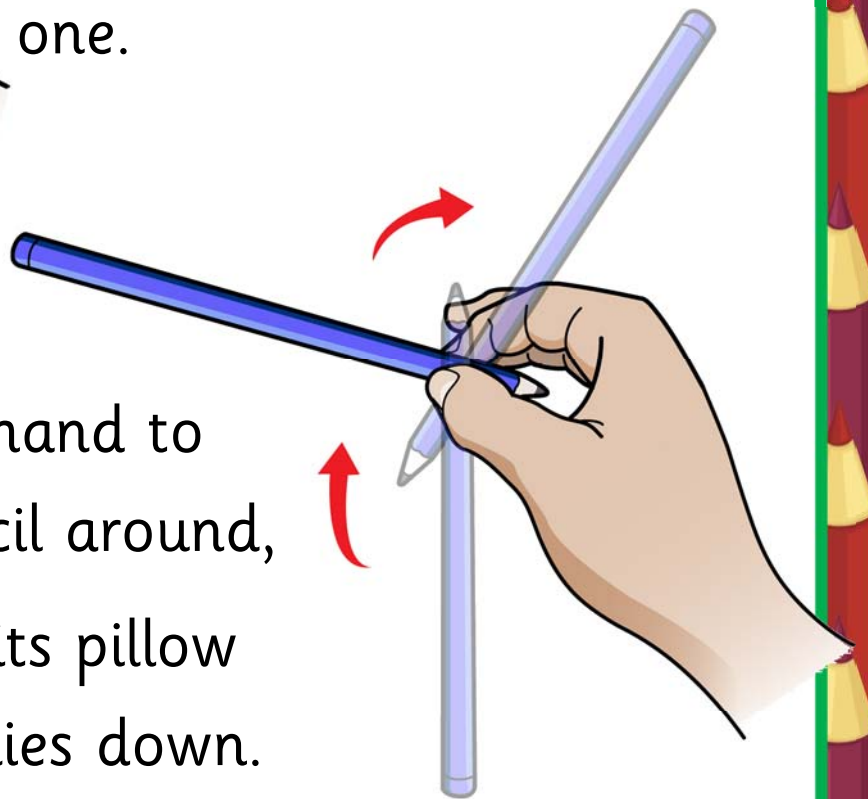
Visit the link below for additional information and activities.

<https://www.understood.org/en/community-events/blogs/expert-corner/2018/09/24/the-unexpected-connection-between-handwriting-and-learning-to-read>

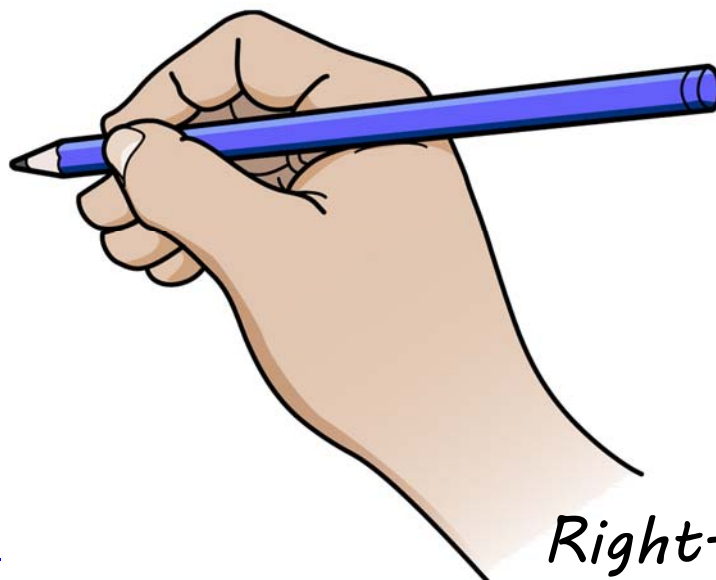
# *The Pencil Hold Rap*



- Pick up your pencil - use your pointer and thumb,
- Let it dangle - this is step one.



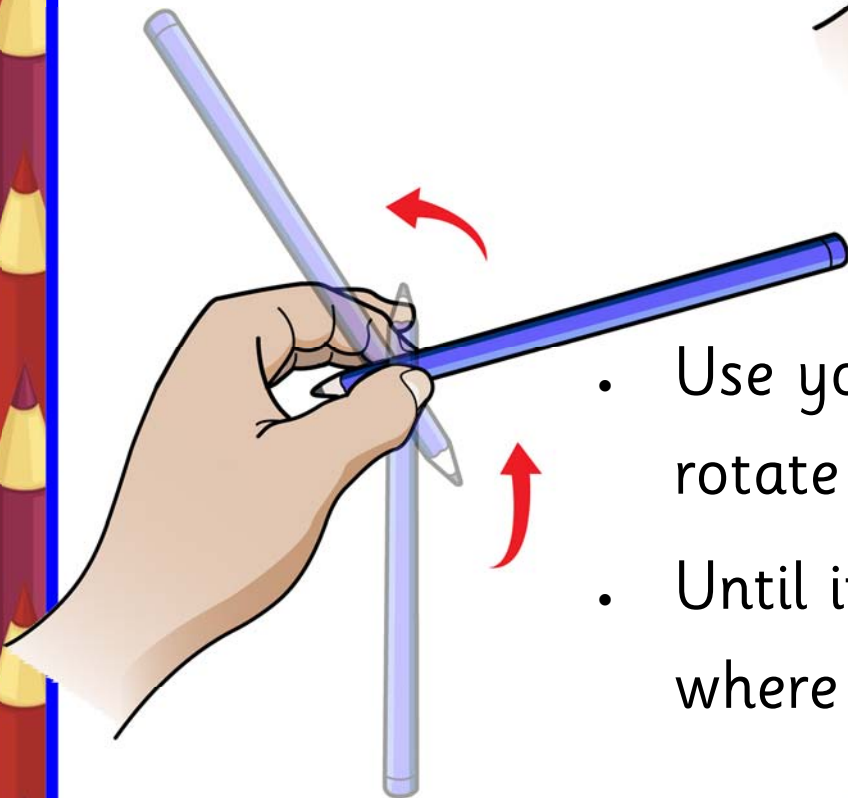
- Use your other hand to rotate your pencil around,
- Until it reaches its pillow where it gently lies down.



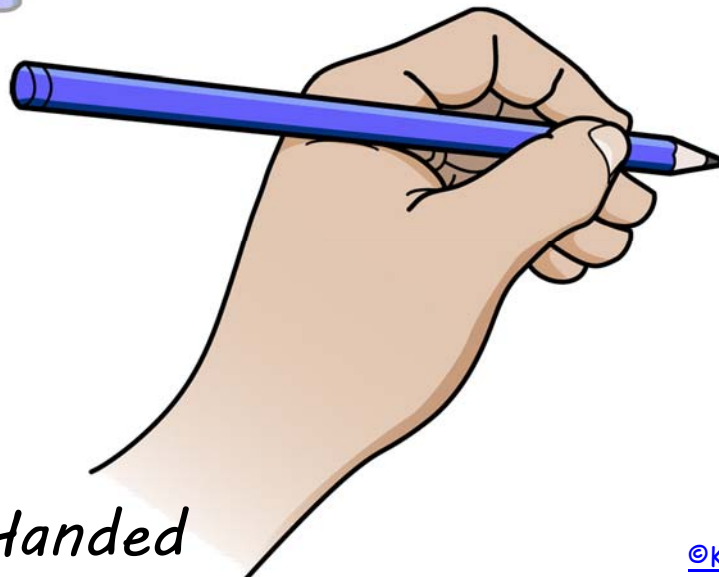
*Right-Handed*

# *The Pencil Hold Rap*

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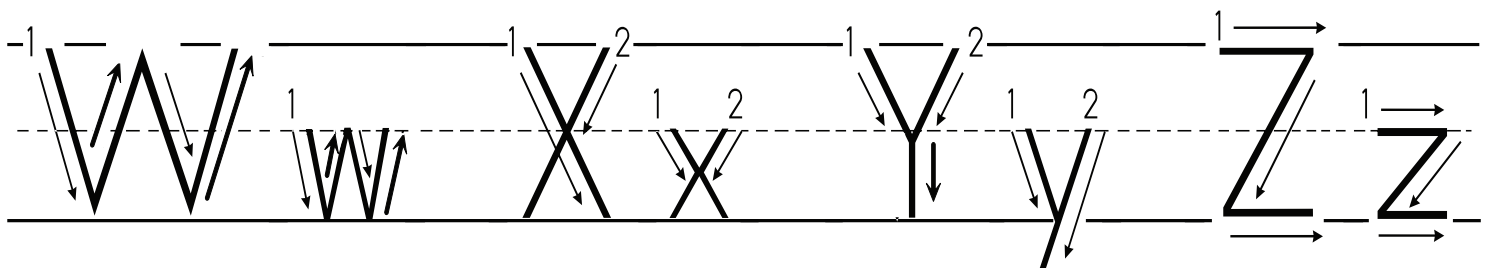
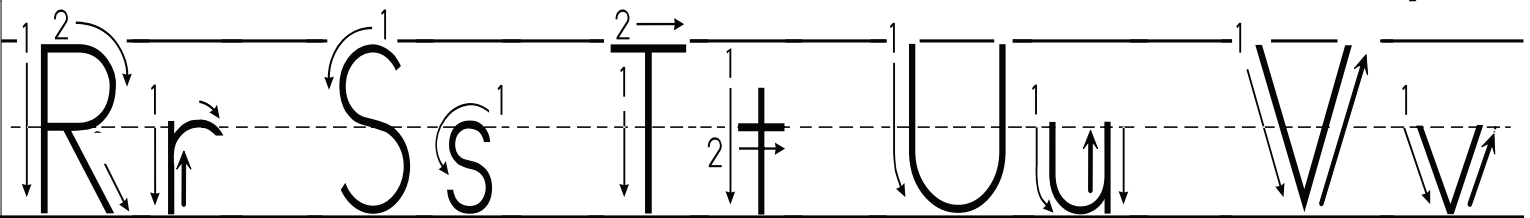
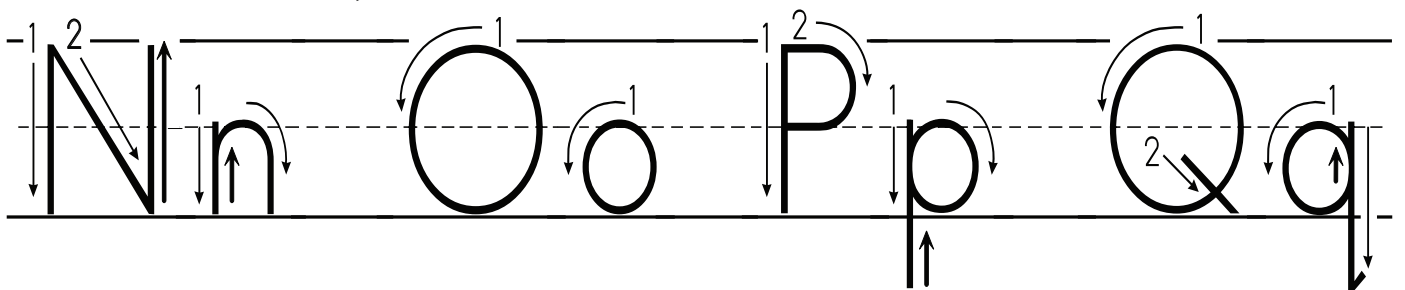
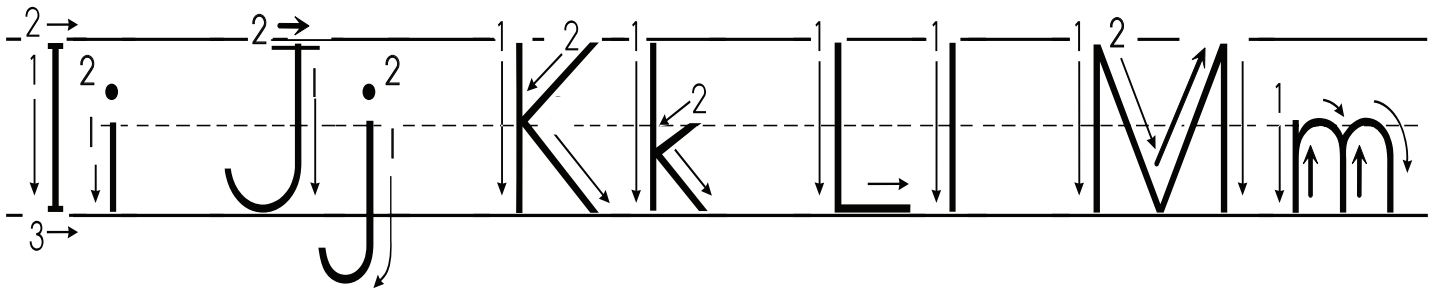
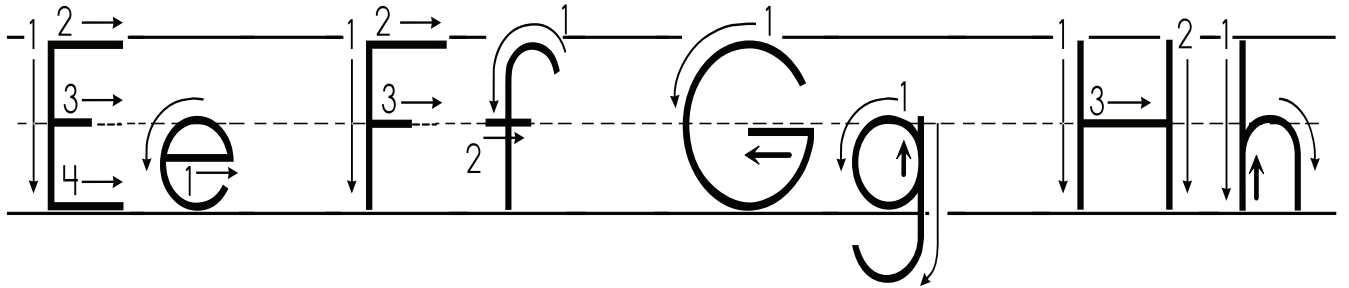
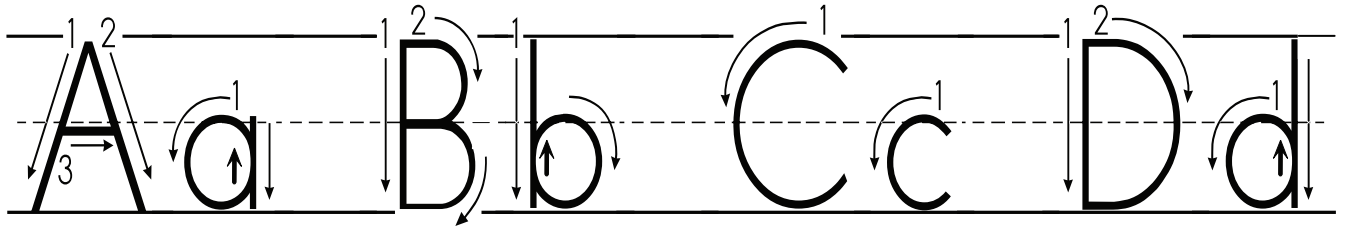


- Use your other hand to rotate your pencil around,
- Until it reaches its pillow where it gently lies down.



*Left-Handed*

# Handwriting



Handwriting practice paper with 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

**Parents, help your child review their high frequency words using these fun and engaging activities.**

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Directions</u></b>
1. Silent Cheer	Almost say the cheer using a wide mouth to pretend to scream each letter.
2. Hungry Thing	Act like you are a giant hungry monster. Say and "stuff" each letter into your mouth as if you haven't eaten for days.
3. Stomping	Stomp out each letter with your foot.
4. Pirates Speak	After you spell the word, add "aaarrgh" after each letter.
5. The Heights	Put your hand up real high for tall letters and down low for short letters.
6. Explosion (Volcano)	Start a whisper, get louder with each letter and explode when you say the word at the end.
7. Third Time's a Charm	Spell the word three times in a different silly voice each time.
8. Jack-in-Box	Start on the ground. Slowly rise when you say each letter. Pop out of the box when you say the word at the end.
9. Elephant Roar	Pretend you are an elephant. Lift your trunk every time you say a letter. When you finish spelling the word, say it in an elephant roar.
10. Cherry Picking	Pretend to put a basket on your hip. Then pretend to pick a cherry and put it in your basket for each letter. Pretend to eat a cherry when you finish spelling the word.

**The high frequency words provided in this readiness packet are Kindergarten high frequency words. They can be cut apart for practice reading and spelling the words.**

**Visit <https://sightwords.com/sight-words/fry/> for additional words (1<sup>st</sup> grade and above) and activities.**

**I**

**am**

**to**

**little**

**a**

**have**

**is**

**the**

**his**

**hers**



**we**

**my**

**like**

**he**

**for**

**me**

**with**

**she**

**see**

**look**

**they**

**you**

**of**

**are**

**that**

**do**

**one**

**two**

**three**

**four**

**five**

**here**

**go**

**from**

**yellow**

**blue**

**green**

**what**

**said**

**was**

**to**

**too**

**and**

**as**

**him**

**her**

**it**

**they**

**them**

**on**