

I've Been Working On My Letters!



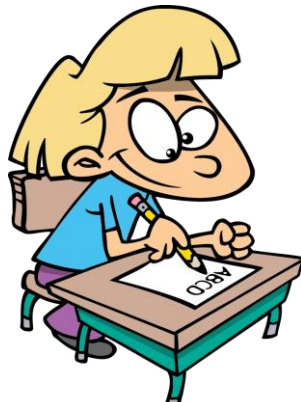
Poetry and Songs for Letter Recognition
and Beginning Sounds

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I've Been Workin' On My Letters

(Tune: I've Been Workin' On the Railroad)

I've been workin' on my letters,
every day in school.
I've been workin' on my letters,
and I think they're really cool.
Have you heard my teacher singing
alphabet songs with me?
Have you heard my teacher making
sounds from A to Z?
Don't you want to know,
I'm a dynamo?
I can write them fast or slow-ow-ow!
Write them in the air,
write them everywhere,
I can write some words to share.
I can use them all for writing,
I can use them all to read a book,
I can use them all for spelling . . .
words like tell and took!
And singing . . .
Fee-fi-fiddly, alphabet!
Fee-fi-fiddly, I'm not done yet!
Fee-fi-fiddly, I'm set . . .
'cause I know the alphabet!



What Do You Do?

Tune: Oh, Where Has My Little Dog Gone?)

Oh, what do you do when you come to a word?
A word that is new to you?
Do you cry and pout, stomp your feet and shout?
Oh, what, oh, what do you do?

Well, we don't give up on those really hard words.
We know all the things we can do.
We work really hard 'til we figure them out,
'cause that's what good readers do!



Down in the First Grade

(Tune: Down By the Station)

Down in the first grade,
early in the morning,
see the ready readers
all in a row.

When we come to new words,
we know how to read them.
Chunk! Chunk! Sound them out!
Off we go!



The "A" Song

(Tune: Down by the Station)

"A" can make two sounds, and the first one is the short sound.

"A" can make two sounds, just imagine that!

Open up your mouth and say /a/ /a/ /a/ /a/ /a/ /a/.

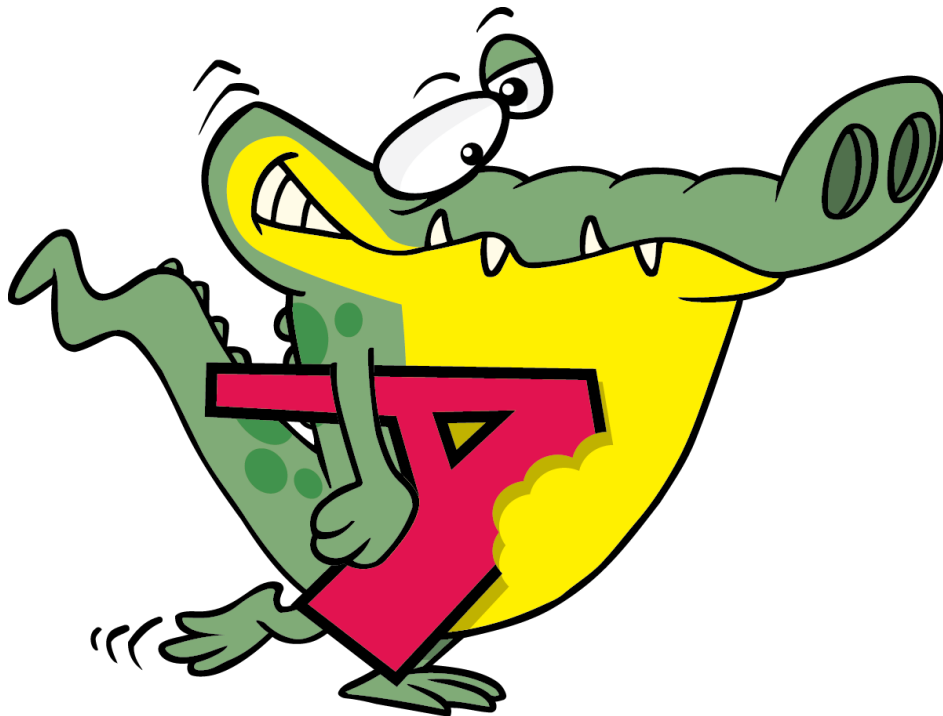
Alligator, actress, and acrobat.

"A" can make two sounds, and the first one is the short sound.

"A" can make two sounds, just imagine that!

See if you can find some to share with one another.

Look for apple, ant, and astronaut!



Say My Name!

(Tune: Polly, Wolly, Doodle)

Oh, I go to school and I learn my letters,
sing the ABCs every day!

But some of the letters have more than one sound,
and you have to learn to say them each way!

Say my name! Say my name!

Say it: a, a, a, a, a!

Now I have a funny friend named Silent e,
and together we make words all day!



Ants! Ants! Ants!

(To the tune: "Three Blind Mice")

Ants! Ants! Ants!

Ants in my pants!

Ants! Ants! Ants!

I dance and prance!

Now I know there's a chance that I never will

sit right down on a red anthill.

My bottom feels like a fire drill

from ants, ants, ants!



The "B" Song

(Tune: My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean)

Our classroom has pictures with b's sound.

/b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/

You'll find them by looking a-round.

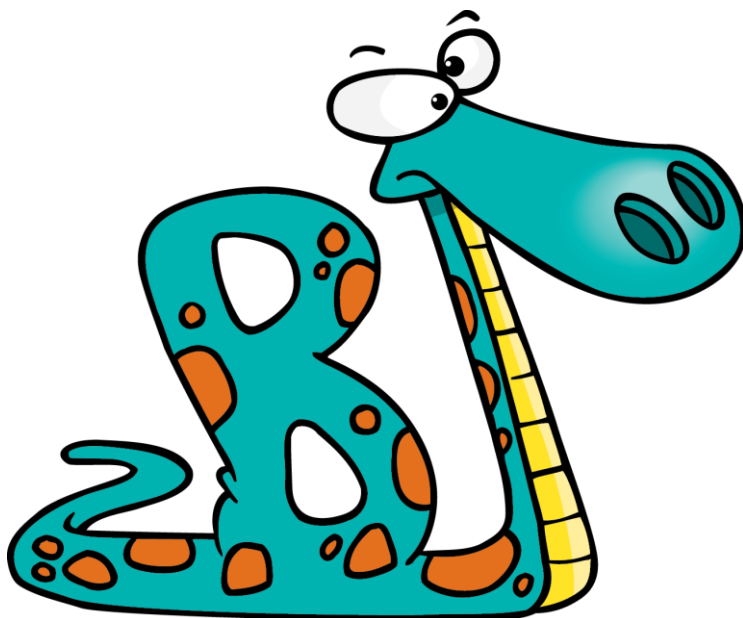
/b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/ /b/.

Bring back, bring back,

Bring back "b" pictures to me, to me.

Bring back, bring back,

Oh, bring back "b" pictures to me!



The "C" Song

(Tune: Oats, Peas, Beans)

There's a letter we all know,
a copycat from head to toe.
It borrows the sounds of s and k.
What do you think the others say?
Poor little c, you have no sound.
Better check the lost and found!
Does anyone know the sound of c?
I wonder what its sound could be!



I'm a Tongue Tapping Letter! (D)

(Tune: She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain)

I'm a tongue tapping letter, yeah, that's me!

I'm a tongue tapping letter, Mr. D!

I speak softly, but another speaks quite loudly.

He's my brother!

He's the tongue tapping letter, Mr. T!

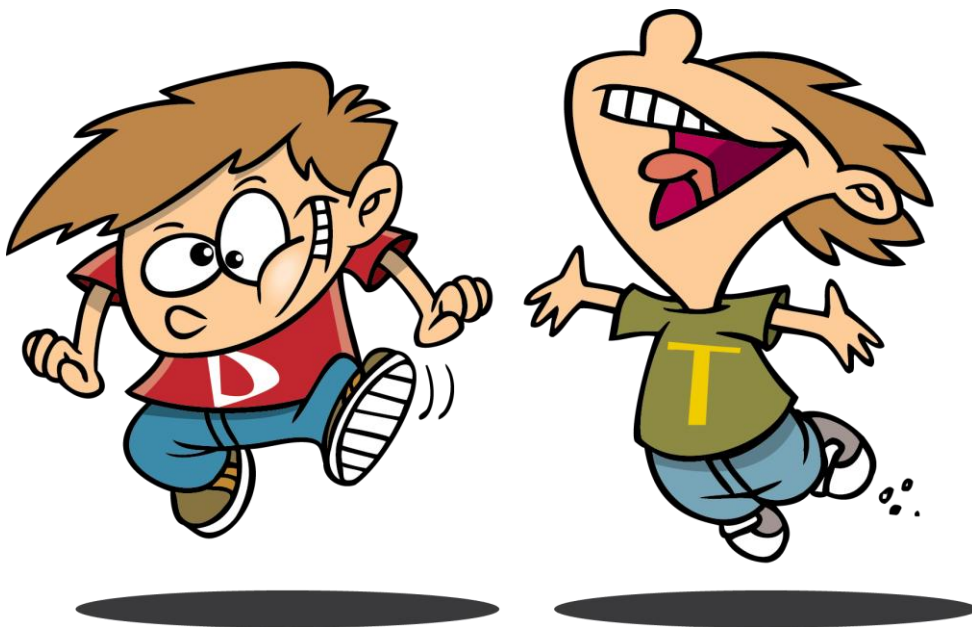
I say "*dip*" and "*dock*" and dances on the dune.

He says "*tip*" and "*talk*" and play another tune.

He speaks softly. I speak loudly,

but we make our sounds quite proudly!

We're the tongue tapping letters, D and T!



Blow That Sound! (F)

(Tune: Do Your Ears Hang Low?)

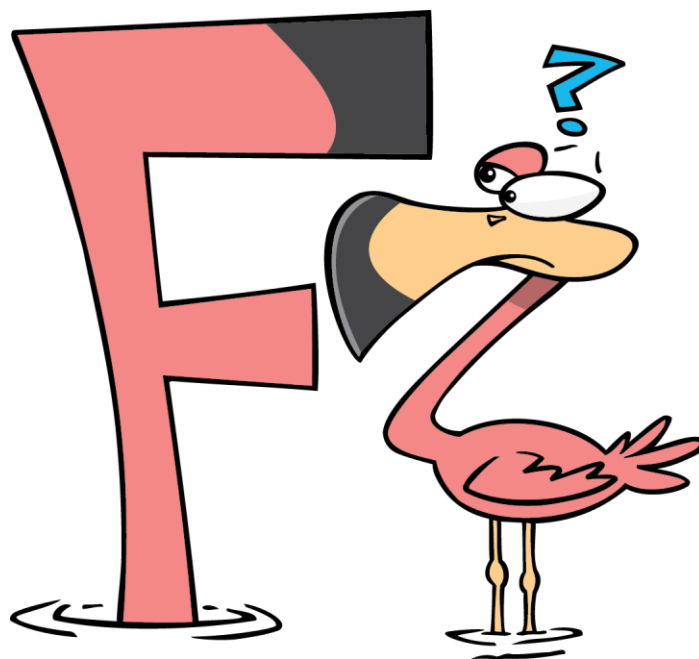
Do you know the sound that Mr. F makes?

We can make it now, for goodness sakes!

We just bite our bottom lips, and we blow with all our might,
and that is how we make Mr. F's sound right!

We can blow big words and some that are small,
like flamingo and face and free and fall!

We just bite our bottom lips, and we blow with all our might,
and we make some words like freeze and fright!



Laugh, Little Letter! (H)

(Tune: Over in the Meadow)

Down in the classroom, where the children go to school,
is a funny phonics teacher who can teach them every rule.

"Laugh, boys and girls, when you want to hear an h."

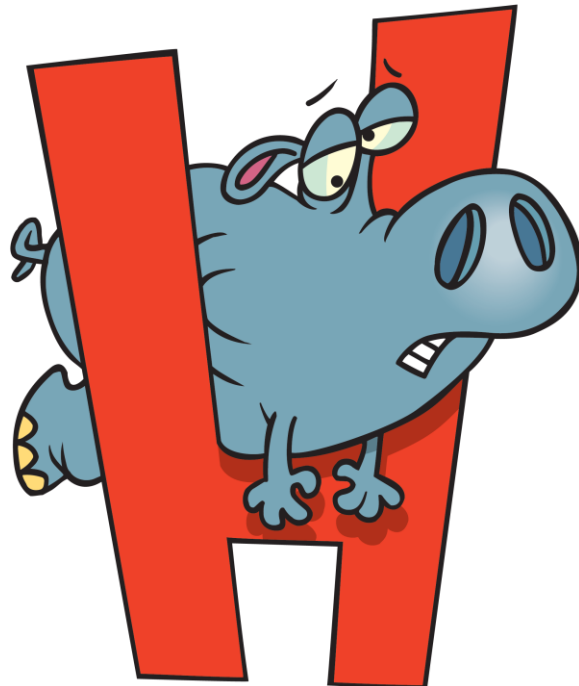
So they laughed and they laughed 'til they had a tummy ache

Ha! Ha! Hee! Hee! Hear the letter laugh!

Little letter h, may we have your autograph?

"Laugh, boys and girls," said the little letter h.

So they laughed and they laughed 'til they had a tummy ache!



A Jolly Good Letter (J)

(Tune: For He's a Jolly Good Fellow)

The J's a jolly good letter.

It makes the alphabet better.

The J's a jolly good letter,
and now I'll tell you why!

Without the J, we'd say uly,
oy and elly and ustify,
uggle and iffy just make me cry,
and so I'll say good-bye!



The "K" Song

(Tune: K-K-K, Katie)

/K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound, /K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound.

It is one that's copied by the letter c.

/K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound, /K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound.

When I write, I am confused as I can be!

/K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound, /K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound.

Why, oh, why, do you play silly tricks on me?

Why do we spell cat, using your friend, c,

but we use a k to write the word kitty?

/K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound, /K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound.

Sometimes you never make a single sound at all!

/K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound, /K/, /K/, /K/, K's sound.

Am I confused because I am so young and small?!



He'll Be Singin' in the Classroom (L)

(Tune: She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain)

He'll be singing in the classroom when he comes: la, la, la!

He'll be singing 'cause he never, ever hums: la, la, la!

He will sing his song so proudly,

(though sometimes he sings it loudly.)

He's a tongue tapping singer, Little L: la, la, la!

Be a singer in the classroom when you come: la, la, la!

You can sing like Little L if you don't hum: la, la, la!

Be a tongue tapping singer.

You can be a real humdinger!

If you sing like Little L when you come: la, la, la!



Monster Munch (M)

(Tune: Clementine)

In the mountains, in a meadow,
all the monsters met for lunch.

They didn't have a menu,
so they made some Monster Munch.

In went Mars Bars, marshmallows,
M and M's, and Milky Way.

They mixed them all together.
Now they make more every day.



Monster Munch (M)

(recipe developed and tested by Cherry Carl's kinders)

1 stick of butter or margarine

5 cups of marshmallows

1 tsp. vanilla

1 Milky Way bar

1 Mars Bar

1 Three Musketeer bar

1 Mounds bar

12 malted milk balls

2 cups of M and M's

4 cups cereal (we chose Disney's Magic Mix)

Put the margarine, marshmallows, vanilla, and candy bars in a medium sized pan. (I used an electric skillet.) Melt on low heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in the cereal. Add M and M candies. Drop by the spoonful on waxed paper. Cool and eat! This needs lots of supervision if you allow children to help rather than observe and should be done in very small groups.

Are You a Hummer? (M)

(Tune: If You're Happy and You Know It)

We put our lips together for the m: /m/ /m/.

Yes, we put our lips together for the m: /m/ /m/.

We put our lips together, and we make a humming noise,

I can hear the humming girls and humming boys.

If you know the sound of m, show me how.

If you know the sound of m, show me now.

If you know the sound of m, make it once and then again.

If you know the sound of m, give me ten! (clap, clap)

If you know a word for m, tell a friend. (assorted responses)

If you know a word for m, tell a friend. (assorted responses)

If you know a word for m, turn around and tell a friend.

If you know a word for m, that's the end!



Such a Silly Sound! (O)

(Tune: London Bridge is Falling Down)

O has such a silly sound!

It makes your mouth
small and round.

O has such a silly sound!

What a letter!

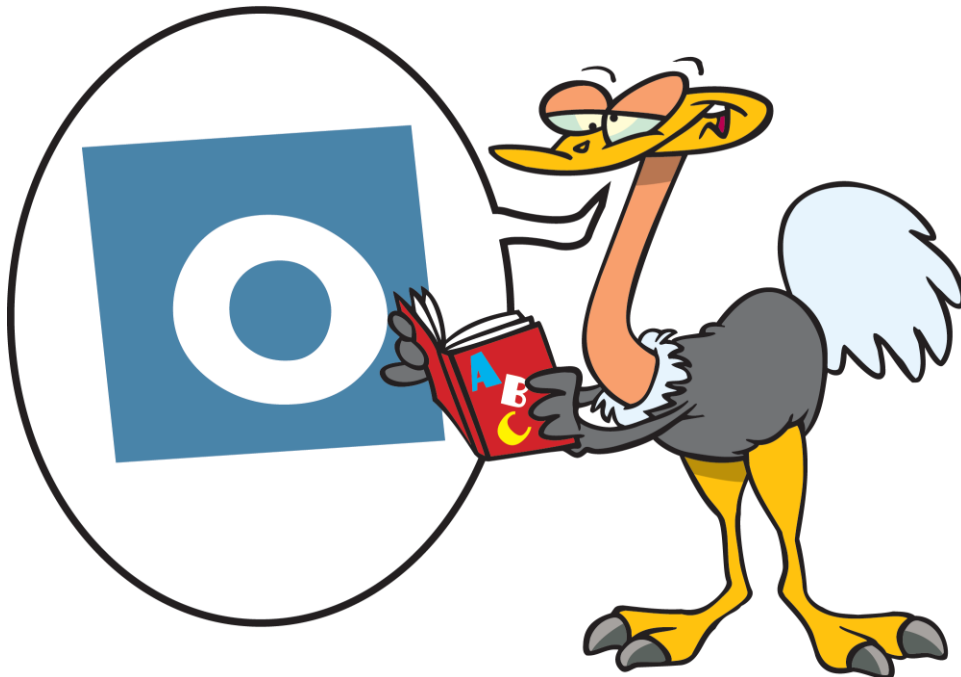
Pucker up for letter O,

there you go,

now you know.

Make a face and you're a pro

to name this letter.



Oh, Give Me a Sound!

Short Sound of o Song

(Tune: Home on the Range)

Oh, give me a sound.

Make your mouth tall and round
for the words with the short sound of o.

I never have heard of a silent e word
when I'm spelling the short sound of o.

Make the short sound of o.

Write some words we already know.

Keep your mouth tall and round
when you're making the sound
and reading the short sound of o.



The "P" Song

(or P is for Pizza)

(Tune: Down By the Station)

P is for pizza with lots of pepperoni,
plenty of peppers, prepared by Pizza Pete.
Put it in the pizza pan and pop it in the oven.
Plates out, pop poured . . . now let's eat!



Q is for Quilt

(Tune: Oh, Where Has My Little Dog Gone?)

My grandma built a quilt for me
with everything from A to Z!

My favorite square is the letter Q
because it always comes with U!

Queen, and quarter, quilt and quit
are four of the words that she fit
into that square for the letter Q,
that always comes along with U!



Q and U: Best Friends

(Tune: On Top of Old Smoky)

There once was a letter.

We knew him as "Q."

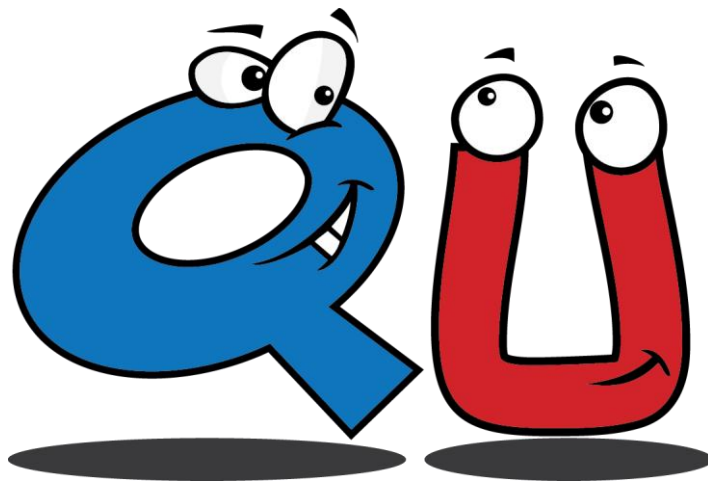
That bored little letter

had nothing to do.

Along came another,
who said, "Let's be friends."

And now they're together
to spell and to blend.

That shy little letter
that we know as "Q,"
now stands and speaks proudly,
but always with "u!"

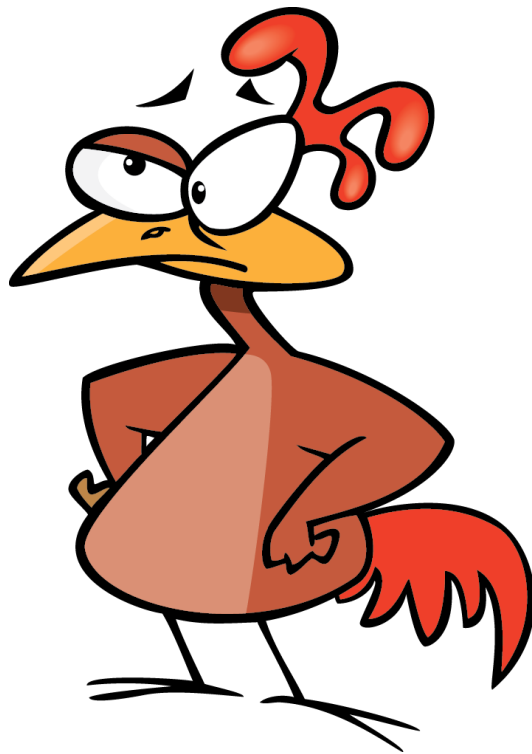


The Old Red Rooster (R)

(Tune: The Old Gray Mare)

The old red rooster isn't what he used to be,
no cock-a-doodle-dee,
in the morning, waking me!
The old red rooster doesn't even make me stir,
with his /r/ /r/ /r/!

The old red rooster isn't what he used to be.
I think he ate a bumblebee!
Perhaps I'll make him drink some tea.
The old red rooster doesn't say a single word,
except his /r/ /r/ /r/!



Sassy S

(Tune: Polly Wolly Doodle)

Oh, I went to school and I got a new letter,
and *s* is the letter I learned.

That *s* is such a sassy letter,
Singing /s/ /s/ /s/ /s/ /s/ /s/ all day!

Sassy *s*! Sassy *s*!

Sassy *s* makes a hissing sound.

If you want to use a letter that sounds like a snake,
Sassy *s* is the letter I found!

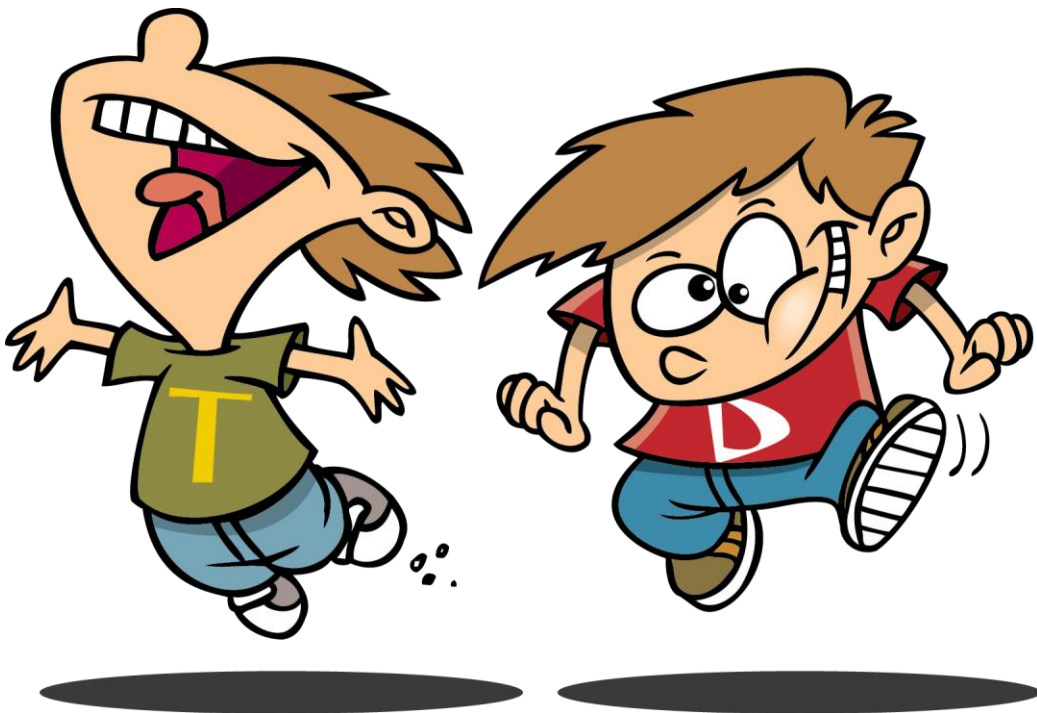


I'm a Tongue Tapping Letter! (T)

(Tune: She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain)

I'm a tongue tapping letter, yeah, that's me!
I'm a tongue tapping letter, Mr. T!
I speak softly, but another speaks quite loudly.
He's my brother!
He's the tongue tapping letter, Mr. D!

I say "*tip*" and "*talk*" and play another tune.
He says "*dip*" and "*dock*" and dances on the dune.
I speak softly. He speaks loudly.
But we make our sounds quite proudly!
We're the tongue tapping letters, D and T!



Up and Down (U)

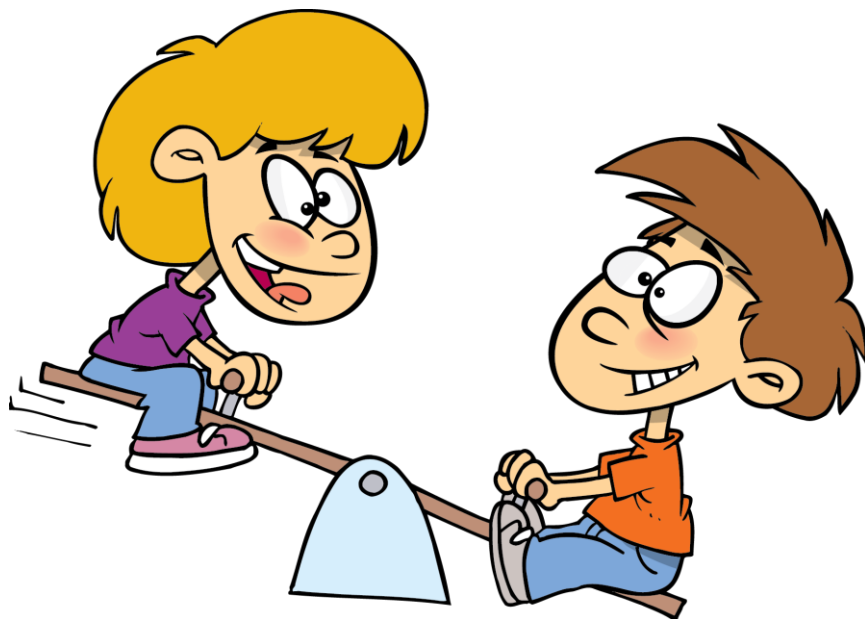
(Tune: The Mulberry Bush)

A seesaw's such a funny thing!
It's nothing like the playground swing.

Up and down and then again,
Down and up and up and then . . .

Teeter totter, seesaw thing,
I think I'd really rather swing!

Up and up and up and then . . .
Down we go and start again!



Yakkety Yak! (Y)

(Tune: I Love the Mountains)

I love to yak and yak,
and when I can yak and yak,
it's about some yummy stuff
'cause yucky stuff's not good enough!

I love to yak with you
and with you and you!

Boom dee yah dah. Boom dee yah dah.
Boom dee yah dah. Boom dee yah dah.



Zippity Letter (Z)

(Tune: Zip a Dee Doo Dah)

Zippity letter, zippity Z.
You're as busy as a letter can be!
Zooming around from zebra to zoo,
tickling my tongue is just what you do!

I can buzz when I'm a singer.
Try zucchini and zinger.
Every word is such a stinger!
Zippity letter, zippity Z.
Wonderful letter, /z/ /z/ /z/ Z!

