

Horsing Around with Letters

Materials Needed:

- Large flashcards for 'H' and 'h'
- Flashcards for sight words 'the' and 'see'
- Pictures or small toy figures of horses
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Worksheet with letter 'H' tracing practice
- Simple picture book about horses (e.g., 'National Geographic Kids: Horses' or similar)
- Construction paper and crayons/markers for drawing
- Optional: Horse sounds audio clip
- Optional: Hay (clean straw) in a shallow tray for sensory tracing

Lesson Procedure:

1. Introduction: Horsing Around! (5 mins)

- Start by talking about horses! Ask: What sound does a horse make? (Neigh!) What do horses like to eat? (Hay!) Show pictures or toy horses. Play a horse sound clip if available.
- Say: "Horses are amazing! The word 'horse' starts with a special letter sound. Let's learn about it!"

2. Meet the Letter 'H' (10 mins)

- Introduce the letter 'H'. Show the uppercase 'H' flashcard. "This is uppercase H. It's a tall letter!" Trace its shape in the air together.
- Show the lowercase 'h' flashcard. "This is lowercase h. It also has a tall part." Trace its shape in the air.
- Practice the sound: "The letter H makes the /h/ sound, like you're breathing out hard. /h/ /h/ /h/. Can you make that sound? Think of h-h-horse or h-h-hay or h-h-happy!"
- Activity: Have the student trace the letter 'H' and 'h' on the worksheet. For extra fun (differentiation), let them trace the letters in the optional hay tray using their finger.

3. Sight Word Roundup (5 mins)

- Introduce the sight word 'the'. Show the flashcard. "This word is 'the'. We see it all the time when we read! Let's say it together: the, the, the." Clap it out.
- Introduce the sight word 'see'. Show the flashcard. "This word is 'see'. Like 'I see you!' Let's say it: see, see, see." Point to your eyes when you say it.
- Practice: Quickly flash the 'the' and 'see' cards and have the student say the word.

4. Reading Corral (10 mins)

- Use the whiteboard or large paper. Write the word 'horse'. Ask the student what letter it starts with ('H'). Practice the /h/ sound again.
- Build simple sentences using the sight words and 'horse'. Write: "See the horse." Read it together slowly, pointing to each word. Use a toy horse as a prop.
- Write: "I see the horse." Read it together.
- Write: "The horse is happy." (Introduce 'happy' if the student is ready, emphasizing the 'h' sound). Read together.
- Activity: Have the student point to the word 'the', 'see', and 'horse' in the sentences.

5. Story Time Stampede (5-10 mins)

- Read a simple picture book about horses. Pause occasionally to point out the letter 'H' or the sight words 'the' and 'see' if they appear clearly.
- Ask simple questions about the story, related to the pictures: "What color is the horse?" "Is the horse running?"

6. Creative Canter (Assessment & Closure - 5 mins)

- Review the letter H sound and the sight words 'the' and 'see'.
- Assessment: Give the student construction paper and crayons. Say one of the sentences you practiced, like "Draw the happy horse." Ask them to draw a picture of what the sentence says. This checks their listening comprehension and connection to the words.
- Praise their effort and beautiful artwork! "You did a great job horsing around with letters and words today!"