



Rooted in Language

Growing Readers & Writers

Rooted in Language provides engaging strategies for both struggling and typical learners. Our activities are based on best practices from research in the fields of education, reading intervention, and speech language pathology.

We deliver our hard-earned, student-friendly ideas through our products and classes.

Thank you for trusting us,

The Rooted Crew

Produced by Rooted in Language

Rita Cevalco, MA, SLP ; Moira Chrzanowski, MA, SLP; Claire Molitors, BFA; Tracy Molitors, MBA
Edited by Linda Plass, BSBA

Website: www.rootedinlanguage.com

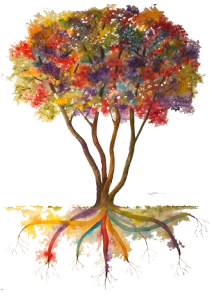
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At Rooted in Language we believe in our products and ideas. Each product is refined through our work with children of varying ages and abilities. However, we recognize that teaching styles differ and that children are individuals with complicated needs. Consequently, Rooted in Language offers no explicit or implied guarantee or warranty for your children's learning outcomes.



Holiday Alphabet Practice

from
Rooted in Language
RootedinLanguage.com

Fun practice for new readers and writers!

New Readers Need Lots of Writing Practice

Reading and writing are best learned together. Interwoven practice in reading, writing, and spelling improves literacy.

From our work with struggling learners, we understand the importance of reinforcing the cognitive connection between all four modes of language—speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The more we help new and struggling learners connect reading and writing, the better students are able to grow as readers and writers.

Say It As You Write

When we engage in language, we use the sound system in our brains called phonological processing. In reading and writing, this process eventually becomes so automatic that most of us don't notice its use. However, in new or struggling learners, it is vital to reinforce this sound-based system to help them lock in their sound-to-letter connections.

At Rooted in Language, we practice *Say It As You Write*. This means that as students write a letter, they say the sound (aloud) associated with that letter. We begin slowly introducing both consonant and vowel sounds. For vowels, we begin with the short vowel sounds, as they are the most difficult to retain.

Learning Letter Names and Sequence

It is also important that children learn letter names and their sequential order. When we engage in writing, we use a symbol recognition process in our brains called orthography. Research on both spelling and handwriting indicates that children need to master:

- The sounds letters represent
- The names of letters
- The alphabetic order of letters

The ability to *combine* this information improves reading, writing, and spelling. Therefore, new and struggling learners need multiple opportunities to master these skills! Therefore, let's take advantage of holiday themes for more letter practice.

Decorate with Letter Lights

Use the lights provided to make a holiday decoration for the tree, the mantle, a wall or window—anywhere that would help your student feel proud of their work.

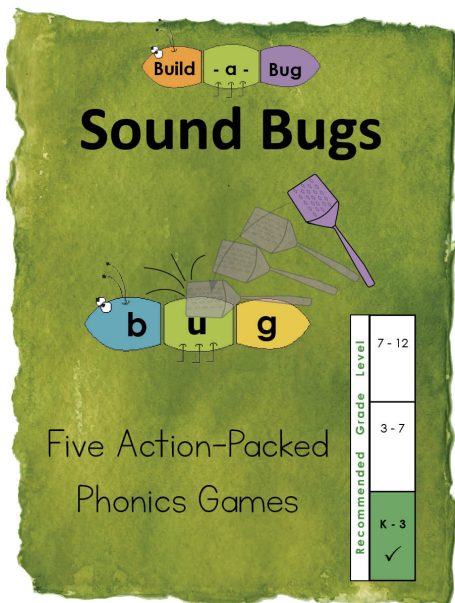
- Print three copies of the light template, and cut out the lights. This will provide a few extras in case of mistakes. There is also a page of uncolored lights if children prefer to color their own!
- Punch a hole in the black section at the top of each light.
- Encourage students to use their best handwriting, and to say each name as they write its corresponding letter. Add a guideline to each light if needed.
- Find a cord, wire, or piece of yarn for stringing lights together, or hooks to hang lights directly on a tree.
- Students can order the lights using the alphabet song.
- Students should say each letter sound as they string the lights together or hang them on a tree or wall.

If students don't know their whole alphabet yet, practice the letters they know, adding new lights every few days as new letters are introduced.

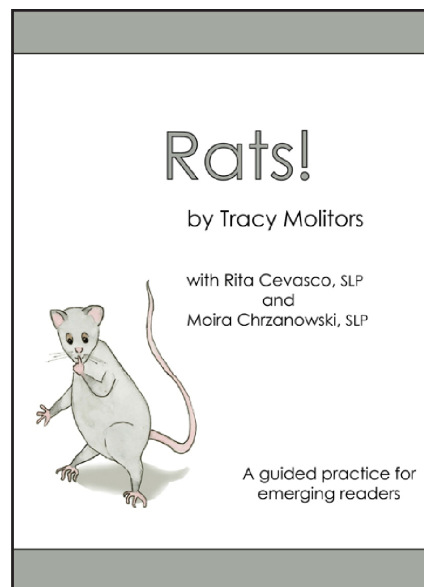
More Practice

Teaching new and struggling learners to read and write takes time, patience, and practice. At Rooted in Language we share teaching strategies that are research-based and kid-tested. We provide many activities to aid new and struggling readers and writers across all ages and stages.

Visit our website for a free download on the short vowel sounds and watch our videos.



Sound Bugs provides more in-depth sound-to-symbol practice and games.



To see how we teach reading, writing, and spelling together, watch our video, *Welcome to the Forest*, and try our guided early reader called *Rats!*

