

The Letter Z - Uppercase (page 39)



Materials:

- alphabet chart or page 4
- **uppercase Z** flashcard
- picture cards (yo-yo, zebra, zipper and any other previously taught picture cards)
- letter poster for **uppercase Z** from previous lesson
- tracing card for **uppercase Z**
- dough (such as Playdough)

Review: 3-5 minutes

- Sing the alphabet song while pointing at the letters
 - For students with less phonics exposure, the teacher should point to a wall chart while singing the song.
 - For students with more phonics exposure and experience, students should point to the letters on page 4 as they sing the song.
- Show the letter and zipper picture flashcard for the letter **Zz**, while saying the letter name, letter sound, the picture name, and stroke count while air writing. Students repeat.
 - Teacher and students: “Z, /z/, zipper”; air write and count letter strokes

Preview: 5-7 minutes

- Show the **uppercase Z** letter poster and trace the letter, counting the letter strokes.
- Do body letter activity
 - Discuss how **uppercase Z** is made of one big line and two small lines.
 - Select three students and use their bodies to form the **uppercase Z** on the floor.
 - Now put the students into groups of three and have them create an **uppercase Z** with their bodies.

Modeling: 3-5 minutes

- Show the students the tracing card for **uppercase Z**.
- Show students how to create an **uppercase Z** from dough.
 - Separate the dough into three parts.
 - Roll the dough into one long “snake” and two short “snakes.”
 - Fit the short piece inside the small straight line at the top on the tracing card.
 - Fit the long piece inside the straight line on the tracing card.
 - Fit the other short piece inside the small straight line at the bottom on the tracing card.
- Show how to trace the letter with their finger, counting the letter strokes.

Guided Practice: 7-10 minutes

- Pass out the tracing card for **uppercase Z** to each student.
- Guide students to trace the **uppercase Z** with their finger, counting the letter strokes. Repeat 2-3 times.
- Pass out dough to each student and have them break it into three parts and hold it in the air to prevent them from going ahead.
- Guide the students to roll one short “snake” and fit it inside the small straight line at the top on the tracing card.
- Guide students to roll one long “snake” and fit it inside the long straight line on the tracing card.
- Guide the students to roll another short “snake” and fit it inside the short straight line at the bottom on the tracing card.
- Guide students to trace the **uppercase Z**, counting the letter strokes. Repeat 2-3 times.

Independent Practice: 3-5 minutes

- Have the students squish the dough back into one ball.
- Break the ball into three parts.
- Now have them roll it into one long “snake” and two small “snakes.”
- The students can use the tracing card to help them make their own **uppercase Z**.
- If they have more time, they can try and make the **uppercase Z** without using the tracing card.

Assessment: (during Independent Practice)

- As the students are making their **uppercase Z**, monitor and give guidance/support/correction/praise, as needed.

Closure: 1-2 minutes

- Show the letter and zipper picture flashcard for the letter **Zz**, while saying the letter name, letter sound, the picture name, and stroke count while air writing. Students repeat.
 - Teacher and students: “Z, /z/, zipper”; air write and count letter strokes