

Bingo Board Activities

Foundational Skills: Beginning Reading and Writing

1. Phonological Awareness (Hearing the Sounds)

Before kids can read well, they need to "hear" how words are built.

- **Sound Scavenger Hunt:** Ask your child to find three things in the room that start with a specific sound (e.g., "Find things that start with the /sh/ sound like *shell*").
- **The Rhyme Game:** While driving or walking, say a word like "Cat" and take turns seeing who can come up with the most rhyming words (bat, sat, hat, flat).
- **Sound Deletion:** Play a "take-away" game. Ask, "What is *spark* without the /s/?" (Park). This helps them manipulate individual sounds mentally.

2. Phonics & Word Recognition (Decoding)

This is where the "code-breaking" happens—connecting sounds to actual letters.

- **Shaving Cream Spelling:** Spread a thin layer of shaving cream (or salt/sand) on a cookie sheet. Have your child practice writing words with "digraphs" (sh, ch, th, wh) or "blends" (st, fl, br).
- **Magnetic Letter Swap:** Build a simple word like *hop*. Ask your child to change one letter to make it *top*, then change another to make it *tap*.
- **Silent 'e' Magic:** Write a CVC word like *can* or *hop*. Have your child add a "magic e" at the end to see how the vowel sound changes to *cane* or *hope*.

3. Fluency & High-Frequency Words

Fluency is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression.

- **Sight Word "Park":** Create a "parking lot" on a piece of paper with squares labeled with common sight words (the, of, and, said). Have your child "park" a toy car on the word you call out.
- **Echo Reading:** Read a sentence aloud from a favorite book with lots of expression. Have your child "echo" it back to you, mimicking your tone and pauses.
- **The 1-Minute Dash:** Pick a short paragraph. Time your child for one minute to see how far they get. Re-read it together, then have them try again to see if they can beat their "personal best."

4. Beginning Writing

Writing at this stage is about moving from drawing to clear, phonetic sentences.

- **Label the House:** Give your child a stack of sticky notes. Have them label items around the house (d-e-s-k, f-r-i-d-g-e, w-i-n-d-o-w). Encourage "invented spelling" where they write every sound they hear.
- **Dialogue Journals:** Write a simple question to your child in a notebook (e.g., "What was the best part of today?"). Have them write a one-sentence answer back. Don't worry about perfect spelling; focus on the flow of ideas.
- **The "First, Next, Last" Comic:** Have them draw a three-panel comic strip about their day and write one sentence under each picture using transition words.

Pro Tip: When your child gets stuck on a word, instead of just telling them, ask: *"Does that look like a word you know?"* or *"Can you stretch those sounds out?"*

How to Use Your Choice Board

The goal of this board is to explore language and reading skills through fun, hands-on activities. There is no right or wrong way to play!

- **Pick Your Pace:** Choose one activity to complete each day, or try to complete a few during a single session.
- **Choose an Activity:** Pick any square on the board that looks interesting. Read the description from the list for that category to see how to complete it.
- **Mark Your Progress:** Once you've finished an activity, cross off the square or put a sticker on it.
- **Get a Bingo:** Try to complete four squares in a row—vertically, horizontally, or diagonally!
- **Go for the "Blackout":** For an extra challenge, see if you can complete every single activity on the board by the end of the week.
- **Talk About It:** When you finish a square, talk about what you learned. Ask questions like, *"What was your favorite part?"* or *"What did this teach us about how authors work?"*

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Title: Foundation Language Skills: Beginning Reading and Writing

Sound Scavenger Hunt	The Rhyme Game	Sound Deletion	Sight Word "Park"
Shaving Cream Spelling Night	Magnetic Letter Swap	Silent "e"	Echo Reading
The 1-Minute Dash	Label the House	Dialogue Journal	First, Next, Last Comic