

ALPHABET ARC

Word-Building Mat with Elkonin Sound Boxes

22
PAGES





One arc, built once. Pick a mat to match each student. Nothing on the mats is ever cut or glued.

- 1** Cut the tiles once (page 6), laminate the arc (page 5)
That is the only cutting this whole pack ever asks for. Keep the 28 tiles in a small bag or envelope with the mat.

- 2** Pick a level per student, not per class
Level 1 is a picture and tinted boxes. Level 2 drops the tint. Level 3 drops the picture — the printed word is the only prompt. The dots on the name line are the only level code, and they are for you, not the student.

- 3** A box is not a letter, it is a sound
Every word here uses short-vowel sounds where each letter is its own sound, so a letter tile and a sound tile are the same thing — say SOUND when you talk about the boxes, not letter.

- 4** Clear the mat between words
Nothing is glued down. Build one word, check it, clear the boxes, build the next — the same mat works for every word this pack has and every word a student ever brings you.

- 5** Beyond this pack's own words
Pages 13 and 14 build ANY word a teacher chooses, not just the ones in this file — that is what the reusable arc is actually for.

If you only do one thing

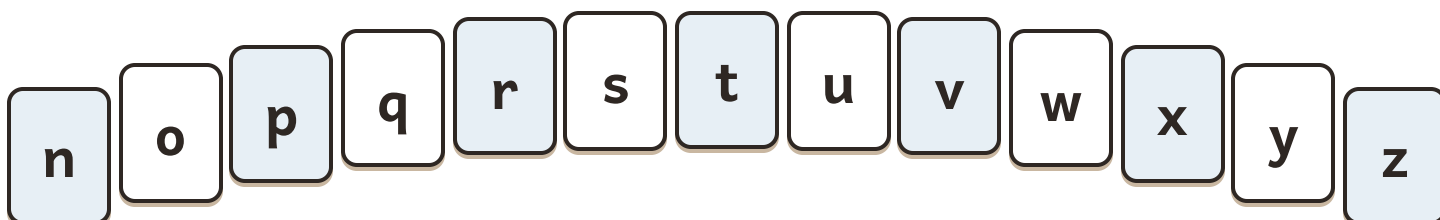
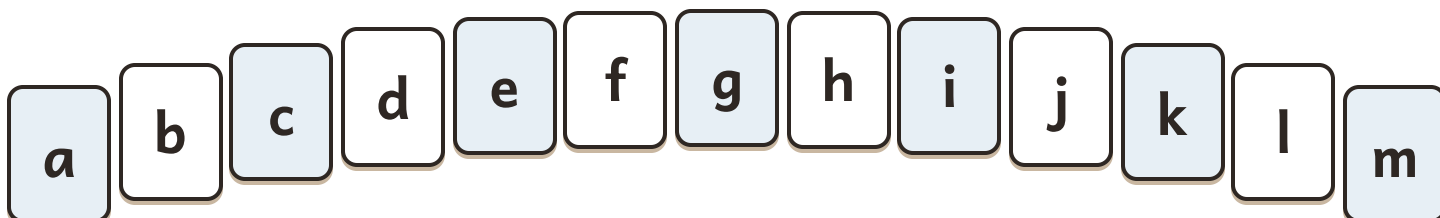
Start with a Skill 1 word even for a student who already knows letter sounds. Building a 3-sound word from the arc is what makes the 4-sound blend words possible at all.



YOUR REUSABLE LETTER REFERENCE



Every lowercase letter, in order, on one mat. Print it once, laminate it (or slide it into a page protector), and it is done for the rest of the year — nothing on this page is ever cut.



How a child uses it

Point to the arc, left to right, while saying the alphabet together once a day — that is the whole job of this page. The letters a student actually BUILDS words with live on the next page, as loose tiles, not on this mat. Running a finger along the curve while naming each letter also gives left-to-right tracking practice, the same direction print itself runs.

Two ways to build, your choice

Cut and keep loose tiles (page 6) if you want pieces a child physically picks up and moves. Prefer less handling? Laminate the sound-box mats too and let a student write each letter in the box with a dry-erase marker instead — same boxes, same arc for reference, no tiles to lose.

Where to keep it

Tape it to the edge of a table, keep it in the front of the binder from page 20, or hang it at eye level — anywhere it stays flat and visible while the tiles are in use. The same mat works at a desk, a small-group table, or a floor circle.



Cut out these 28 tiles ONE time. Laminate them if you can, then keep them in a small bag or envelope — these are every letter you will ever need to cut for this pack.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z	t	?

Tile 27 — a spare “t”

This pack’s own word list has exactly one word that needs two of the same letter — “tent” (page 12) — so tile 27 is a second t. Every other word in this pack uses each letter once.

Tile 28 — a blank wildcard

Pencil any letter onto this one when you build a word of your own (page 13 or 14) that needs a second copy of a letter this set does not double.

Storing your tiles

A snack-size bag, a pencil pouch pocket, or an envelope taped inside the binder cover (page 20) all keep 28 small pieces from scattering in a desk drawer. Running more than one small group at once? Cut a second full set rather than splitting one — sharing mid-word slows both groups down.

SOUND BOXES: 3-SOUND WORDS

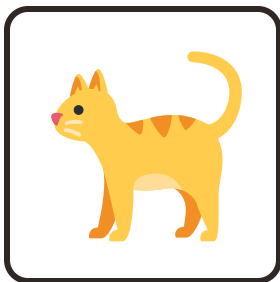


NAME

DATE



 Say the word slowly. Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc for each sound and place it in the box.



1



2

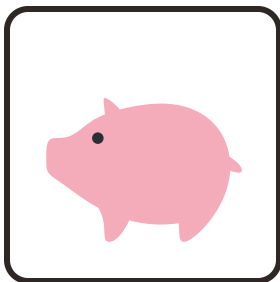


3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.



1



2

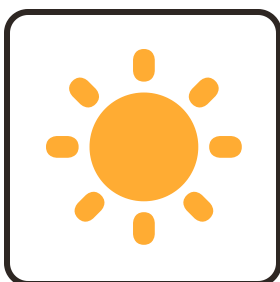


3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.



1



2



3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

SOUND BOXES: 3-SOUND WORDS



NAME

DATE



Read the word. Say each sound slowly. Build it with your arc tiles, box by box.

sat

1



2



3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

fed

1



2



3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

dig

1



2



3



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

SOUND BOXES: 4-SOUND WORDS

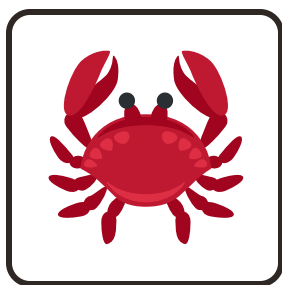


NAME

DATE



 Say the word slowly. Pull one letter tile for each sound and place it in the box.



1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.



1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.



1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

SOUND BOXES: 4-SOUND WORDS



NAME

DATE



 Read the word. Say each sound slowly. Build it with your arc tiles, box by box. "Tent" needs the spare t tile from your arc sheet.

tent

1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

flag

1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.

sled

1



2



3



4



→ Pull one letter tile from your Alphabet Arc sheet for every sound — clear the boxes before the next word.

☆ Checked it against the key? Color a star.



STUDENT _____

DATE _____

Write ANY word on the line, then build it with tiles from your Alphabet Arc — one box per sound. Use only the boxes the word needs; leave the rest blank.

WORD _____

1



2



3



4



5



6



Need two of the same letter (like “letter” or “glass”)? Use the blank wildcard tile from page 6.

1 · Say it

Say the word slowly, sound by sound.

2 · Build it

Pull one tile per sound from your arc.

3 · Check it

Compare it to the word on the key (page 15).

4 · Clear it

Take the tiles back out before the next word.

First time with this mat? Try one of these

Any word this pack already uses works as a warm-up with a known answer: **cat** (3 boxes) or **crab** (4 boxes). Check the result against the key (page 15) before moving to a word of your own.

If it is not right the first time

Do not erase or re-sort the tiles for the student. Point to the box that is wrong, say the whole word again, and let them swap just that one tile. A word that takes two or three honest tries still counts as independent — it is the adult taking over the tile that turns it into help.

Three ways to use this one page

- As a warm-up: the same known word every day for a week, so the win happens before the new content does.
- As a quick probe: a word straight off this week’s spelling or reading list, with no notice given in advance.
- At a center: laminate it and let a partner pair take turns picking the word, with the answer key (page 15) at the table for them to check each other.

ANSWER KEY — SOUND BOXES



Every word is listed with its letters in order, left to right — recomputed from the same data that draws the pages, never typed twice.

Sound Boxes: 3-Sound Words

Level 1	cat c-a-t · pig p-i-g · sun s-u-n
Level 2	bed b-e-d · dog d-o-g · fox f-o-x
Level 3	sat s-a-t · fed f-e-d · dig d-i-g

Sound Boxes: 4-Sound Words

Level 1	crab c-r-a-b · frog f-r-o-g · flag f-l-a-g
Level 2	drum d-r-u-m · sled s-l-e-d · nest n-e-s-t
Level 3	tent t-e-n-t · flag f-l-a-g · sled s-l-e-d

Quick reference — every word in this pack

3 sounds (9 words)	bed, cat, dig, dog, fed, fox, pig, sat, sun
4 sounds (7 words)	crab, drum, flag, frog, nest, sled, tent

The two “Build Any Word” mats (pages 13, 14)

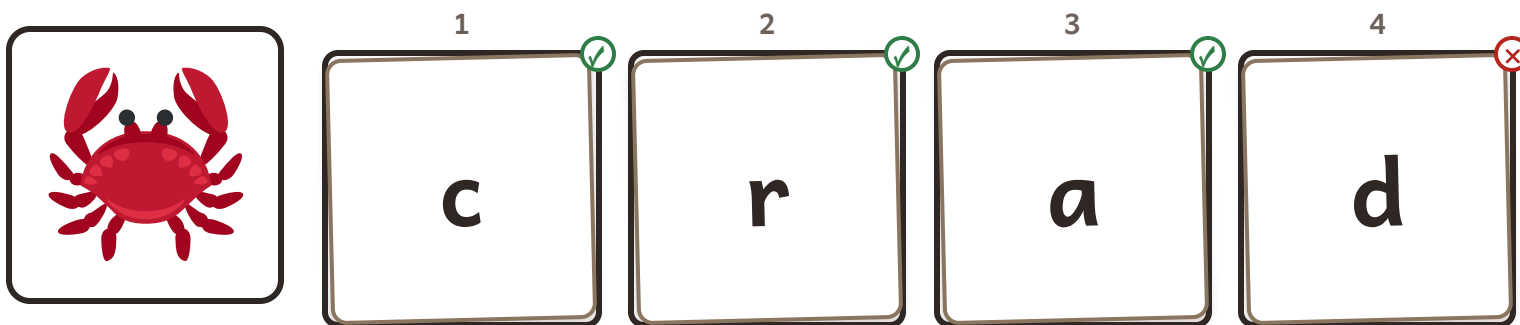
These have no fixed key — the teacher checks the boxes against whatever word she wrote on the line, not against this page.

Picking a level for a new student

No data yet? Start at Skill 1, Level 2 (page 8) — a picture, no tint. A student who builds all three words without a model is ready for Level 3 next session; a student who needs the tint back belongs at Level 1 (page 7) until two sessions go well. Only move to Skill 2’s 4-sound words (page 10 onward) once Skill 1, Level 3 is independent.



Maya T. is an invented student — nothing on this page describes a real child. Maya built “crab” from Alphabet Arc tiles, shown exactly as it was placed.



How to read it

Maya got 3 of 4 boxes correct. The one miss: box 4 (wrote “d”, the word needs “b”) — a common early mix-up between two letters that look alike, not a sign of anything more. Every number on this page is computed from the same data that drew the blank page (page 10), never typed twice.

What happens next

One miss on four boxes is independent with a spot-check, not a reteach — point to box 4, say the word again, and have Maya fix just that tile. Log it on the progress page (page 17).

Reading a score that is not this one

All boxes correct	Independent — move to the next level or word length.
One box wrong, like this page	Independent with a spot-check on just that box, not a full reteach.
Two or more boxes wrong	Model the word once more before the student tries again — mark it “with help” on the progress page (page 17).

Keep in mind

This example is one snapshot of one word on one day. A student who reverses b and d on “crab” today may not on “bed” (page 8) tomorrow — a single box is never the whole picture, which is exactly why the progress page (page 17) tracks the pattern across sessions instead of any one try.

Why this example still shows a picture

“Crab” is drawn from Skill 2, Level 1 (page 10) on purpose — a picture word, so a first-time buyer sees how the picture and the boxes line up before trying a Level 3 page, where the printed word is the only prompt. The same scoring and the same boxes work exactly the same way with no picture at all.



THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

One arc, laminated once, is the whole investment — every word a student ever needs to build comes off the same 28 tiles. If that saved you from printing one more disposable worksheet, it worked.

Leave a review and earn credits

Go to **My Purchases** on TPT and click **Provide Feedback**. You earn credits toward future purchases, and honest feedback tells me exactly what to build next. If something is missing or wrong, please use the **Ask a Question** tab first — I will fix it and send you the update free.

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