How to Catch a Reindeer

A BOOK COMPANION FOR

How to Catch a Reindeer



58 pages · craft · 3 levels

Preschool · Kindergarten · 1st · 2nd Grade · Special Ed

by Bright Path Sped

CATCH A REINDEER

Catch a Reindeer Week — Start Here

Read the same book every day. Do one activity a day. Pull the page and go.

This week

- [ ] Read *How to Catch a Reindeer* at circle time every day this week. Children love the repeat, and each day they join in more.
- [ ] After the story, do that day's activity. Every student page has one short direction and a picture, so a paraprofessional can run it too.
- [ ] Teach the core word **catch** all week: point to it on the talker or core board every time it comes up in the story.
- [ ] Cutting pages are built for small hands: five or more big pieces, lined up so every cut is one straight line. Pre-cut them for students who are not cutting yet.
- [ ] Sorting, counting, letters and writing come in three levels, marked with a small shape so children do not compare: ● starting (errorless matching), ■ building, ▲ ready for more.
- [ ] Print the color pages, or use the ink-saver pages at the back on a photocopier.
- [ ] **Day 5 craft:** Glue the big pen down. Glue the body inside it, then the legs under the body and the scarf on top. Add the head, the nose, the two ears and the two antlers. Your reindeer is caught!

DAY	AFTER THE READ-ALOUD	ALSO PRACTICING
Day 1	Sort: animal or not? (3 levels)	cutting straight lines, gluing, sorting
Day 2	Count the carrots and glue or write the number (3 levels)	counting 1–5, 6–10
Day 3	Letter R: find it, match it, or hear it (3 levels); trace or write	letter R, beginning sound, pencil grip
Day 4	Set a trap: put the steps in order.	life skill: making a plan, first/next/then/last
Day 5	Book craft: build a reindeer in a pen.	cutting straight lines, gluing, following steps

PREVIEW

CATCH A REINDEER

The Book and the Words

Pick the read-aloud you have. The activities fit any of them.

Read-alouds this unit goes with

- **How to Catch a Reindeer** by Adam Wallace

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Circle-time song: Let's Catch a Reindeer!

Set a little trap and **catch** a reindeer,
carrot, carrot, shh.
Tiptoe, tiptoe, peek inside,
was it you or me?

An original chant by Bright Path Sped. Have children clap on each 'catch,' crunch a pretend carrot on 'carrot,' and tiptoe in place on the last two lines.

Words to use all week

carrot, star, box, sled, snowflake, footprints, basket, eyes, look

Ways to stretch the week

- [ ] Reread the book at a different time of day — a second read-aloud helps children who need more repeats.
- [ ] Point to the core word on a talker or core board every time it comes up in the story, not only during the word-of-the-week page.
- [ ] Put the vocabulary pictures on a ring and let a student “read” the book to a partner with just the pictures.
- [ ] Send one activity home early in the week if a family asks for extra practice — every page works alone.
- [ ] Let a student who finishes early retell the story using only the vocabulary pictures, pointing in order.
- [ ] Keep the family letter and the vocabulary card together in a send-home folder so the words travel with the book.
- [ ] Use the ink-saver pages at a center or in a photocopier tray so every student takes a set home, not just the class set.

What you’ll want on hand

Crayons or markers, a glue stick, child-safe scissors (or pre-cut the pieces for students who are not cutting yet), and a copy of the read-aloud from your school or public library. Nothing else to prep — every page is ready to print.

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CATCH A REINDEER

Smartboard Circle Time

Whole-group practice before the paper activity.

How to use these slides

- [ ] The next 9 pages are slides for the whole class: open this PDF on your smartboard or projector and go full screen.
- [ ] Children come up and tap or circle with the board pen: name the pictures, sort, count, find the letter, put the steps in order, and say the core word.
- [ ] They follow the week: do the matching slide before each day's paper activity, so the whole group sees the idea once before anyone works alone.
- [ ] They are landscape pages sized for a widescreen board. Skip them when you print the student pages — the paper set starts right after.

What you'll want on hand

A smartboard, interactive projector, or any screen the whole group can see; a board pen or a finger for tapping and circling; and the story read aloud once before the first slide, so the pictures and the core word are already familiar faces.

What the nine slides cover, in order

A title slide with the week's pictures, name-the-picture practice, a whole-group sort, three counting slides, a letter hunt, the life-skill sequence in order, and the core word to say together.

Make it work for every learner

- [ ] Call on a student to come to the board, but let anyone answer out loud or point from their seat — the slide works either way.
- [ ] Pause on any slide as long as the group needs; there is no timer and no wrong answer to rush past.
- [ ] A student who uses a talker or core board can point to the matching picture there instead of on the screen.
- [ ] A student who is not yet pointing independently can be handed over hand, or can simply watch and listen — whole-group time counts even without a turn at the board.
- [ ] Revisit yesterday's slides for a minute before today's new one — the repetition is the point of a theme week.
- [ ] Keep the pace slow and the praise specific: name exactly what the student did right before moving to the next slide.

No smartboard yet? A tablet propped up, or even the pictures printed one to a page and held up by hand, runs the same nine slides just as well — the point is the whole class looking at the same picture together, not the device it is shown on.

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GREAT FOR WINTER

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PREVIEW

Find every R and r!



Rr is for rabbit

R	B	r	P	R	D
r	b	R	p	R	r

PREVIEW

My name: _____

Catch a Reindeer words

✂ Cut out the cards for circle time.

 carrot	 star	 box
 sled	 snowflake	 footprints
 basket	 eyes	 look

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

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My name: _____

Match each picture.

Animal

Not an animal

Cut on the dashed lines.



Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

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My name: _____

Count the carrots. Glue the number.











Cut on the dashed lines.

1	2	3	4	5

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

© Bright Path Sped

My name: _____

Trace the letters.



R r

R R R R R R

r r r r r r

Rr Rr Rr

Draw a rabbit here.

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

© Bright Path Sped

My name: _____

Set a trap. What comes first?

1. First	2. Next	3. Then	4. Last

One picture does not belong. Leave it out.

✂ Cut on the dashed lines.



wait and watch



ride a bike



get a carrot



look inside



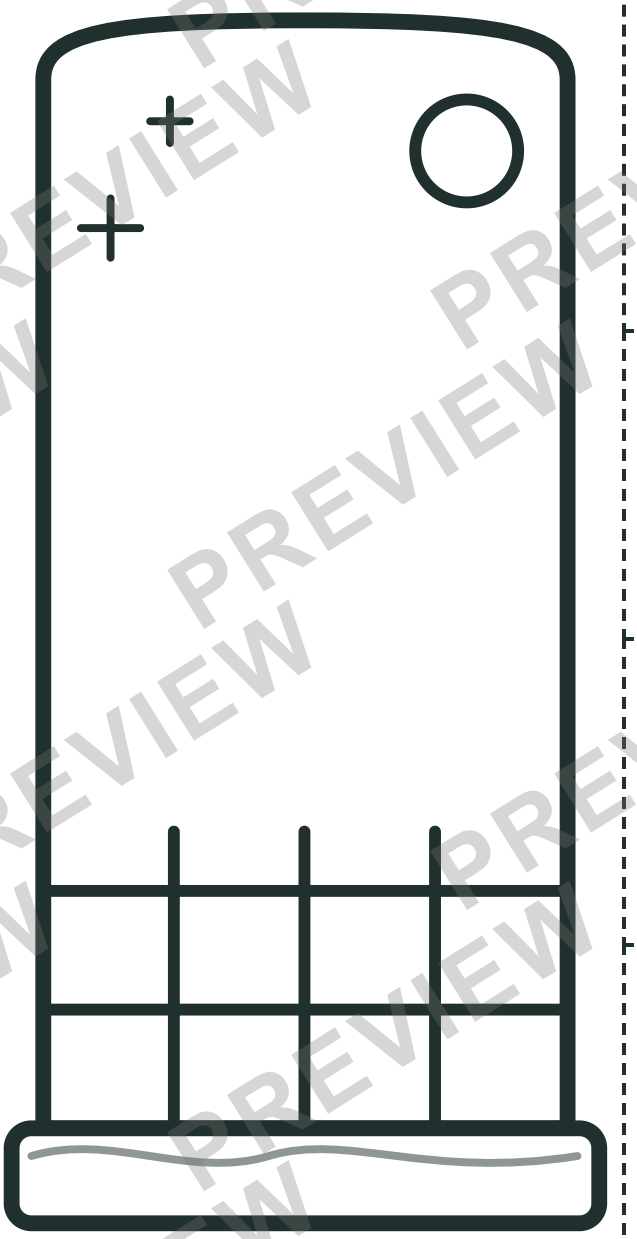
set it in a box

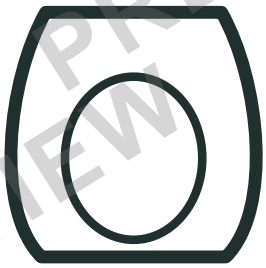
Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

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My name: _____

Cut out the pen and the reindeer pieces.





Body in the middle of the pen.



Head: glue it above the body.



Antler on the left side.



Antler on the right side.



Nose in the middle of the face.



Ear on the left side.



Ear on the right side.



Legs under the body.



Scarf on top of the body.

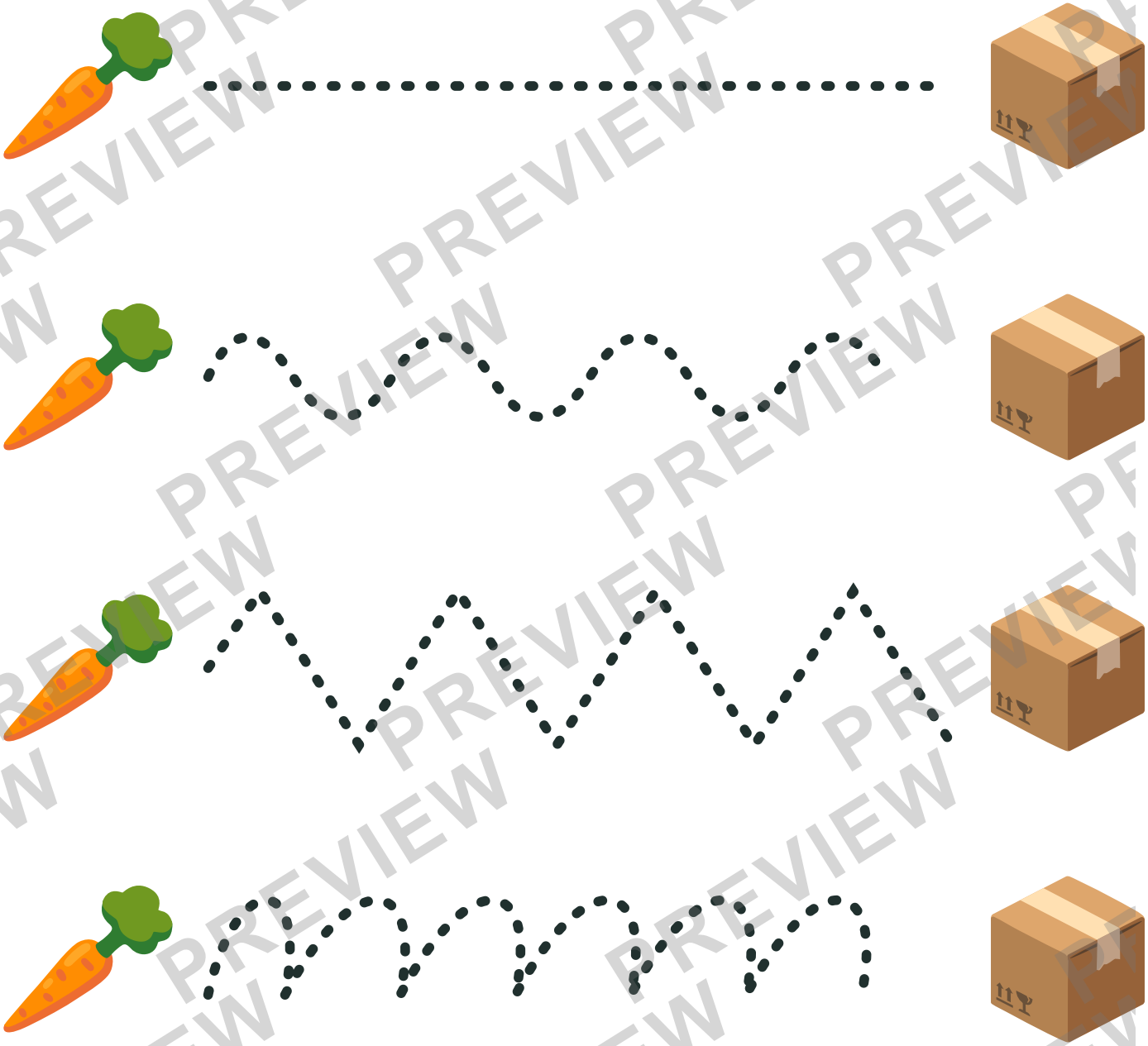
Cut on the dashed lines. Every cut is straight.

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

© Bright Path Sped

My name: _____

Help the carrot get to the box.



Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

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My name: _____

Say it. Find it on your talker.

Our word this week

catch



I can catch the ball.

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

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PREVIEW

CATCH A REINDEER

Who Did What This Week

One row per student. Handy for IEP notes and progress reports.

How much help? Write one code in each box

I = did it on their own · G = gesture or pointing · V = told what to do · H = hand-over-hand · – = absent

Day 1: Sort: animal or not? (3 levels) · Day 2: Count the carrots and glue or write the number (3 levels) · Day 3: Letter R: find it, match it, or hear it (3 levels); trace or write · Day 4: Set a trap: put the steps in order. · Day 5: Book craft: build a reindeer in a pen.

STUDENT	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5

PREVIEW

CATCH A REINDEER

Family Letter

Send home on Day 1. The lines are for your own note.

Dear family,

This week our class is reading about **reindeer, winter, and making a plan to catch one**. We read the same story every day and do a new activity with it: sorting, counting, letters, a life skill and a craft.

Our word of the week is **catch**. Try using it at home: “Catch it!” “Can you catch me?”

Try at home: make a paper reindeer and take turns hiding it for the other person to find.

You do not need any special materials for this — just a few minutes together, whenever it fits your day.

Ask your child to show you their favorite page from this week and tell you about it in their own way — pointing, a word, or a full sentence all count.

This week’s words: carrot, star, box, sled, snowflake, footprints, basket, eyes, look.



Practice the word “catch” anywhere you go this week — in the car, at the table, at bedtime.

Questions about this week’s activities? Send a note back with your child and we will follow up. Thank you for reading with your child every day this week — it makes a real difference in how quickly the words and the story stick.

Thank you!

PREVIEW

My name: _____

Catch a Reindeer words

✂ Cut out the cards for circle time.

 carrot	 star	 box
 sled	 snowflake	 footprints
 basket	 eyes	 look

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

© Bright Path Sped

My name: _____

Glue R on each R.



Rr

rabbit

R R R R R

Glue one in each circle.

Cut on the dashed lines.

R R R R R

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

© Bright Path Sped

My name: _____

Set a trap. What comes first?

1. First	2. Next	3. Then	4. Last

One picture does not belong. Leave it out.

✂ Cut on the dashed lines.



wait and watch



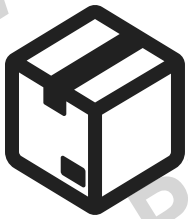
ride a bike



get a carrot



look inside



set it in a box

Color a star when you finish! ☆ ☆ ☆

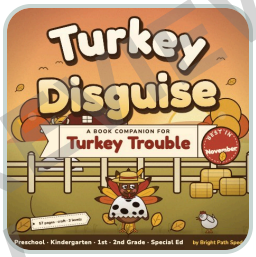
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CATCH A REINDEER

More From Bright Path Sped

A few more theme weeks that pair naturally with this one.

Every Bright Path Sped theme week follows the same five-day format — read the same story each day, then one simple sort, count, letter, life-skill or craft activity after it, at three levels so the whole class can join in, whatever each child is working on. If “Catch a Reindeer” worked for your room, these theme weeks are built the exact same way and pair naturally with it:



Turkey Disguise

A companion about a turkey who hides from dinner, with its own sort, count and letter activities and a craft.



Little Red Hen

A folktale companion about a hen who bakes bread, with its own sort, count and letter activities and a craft.



Caps for Sale

A companion about a cap seller and some cheeky monkeys, with its own sort, count and letter activities and a craft.



Interrupting Chicken

A companion about a little chicken who loves to interrupt, with its own sort, count and letter activities and a craft.

Click **Follow** on the store page to hear about new theme weeks as they’re added — new ones show up in your Followed Stores feed on TPT, and every update to a theme week you already own is always a free re-download from **My Purchases**, with no need to repurchase.

Every Bright Path Sped theme week shares the same look and the same five-day plan, so once your class knows how one week runs, every week after it runs itself — swap the book, keep the routine.

PREVIEW