

Really Great Handwriting for Blast



A Bridge Between Reading and Spelling for Blast Students

chea chea

Table of Contents

Handwriting Scope and Sequence Options By Blast Letter Cluster & By Letter Formation	3
Sample Foundational Skills Activities	
Introduction to Orbital Pathways Following	
Directions, & Fine Motor Skills	10
Sample Handwriting Lesson	
Handwriting Application & Practice for Cluster 2: d, f, r, i	14
Workbook and Printable Materials	
Foundational, Letter Formation, Spelling, & Dictation	17
Sample Digital Materials	
Animations	27

Blast Scope and Sequence

Introduction

Really Great Reading is excited to present a sample of our brand new Really Great Handwriting program, launching for Back to School 2023. This program is designed to work in conjunction with Blast decoding and encoding instruction. Blast's Really Great Handwriting focuses on helping students achieve proficiency in letter formation and writing conventions to facilitate and reinforce decodina and encoding. Letter formation is taught in conjunction with letter-sound instruction in each Lesson 1, and all letters are cumulatively reviewed throughout the program through dictation and writing practice. This packet contains samples of the handwriting routines, lessons, and tools that will be included in the program.

Scope and Sequence Options

Really Great Handwriting includes two scope and sequence options. The first follows Blast's scope and sequence and teaches letter formation according to the Blast letter clusters. The alternative scope and sequence is organized based on each letter's formation using vocabulary from our verbal pathways. When letters are grouped by formation and not by a phonics sequence, students are able to learn, reinforce, and master similar strokes that are used to form letters. This can help students avoid reversals and practice orienting their letters correctly. Both of these scope and sequence options can be found on the following pages.



Remember, proper handwriting is essential to helping students bridge the gap between reading and spelling!
Remind students to take their time and that forming letters can help them avoid reversals and missed phonemes.



Really Great Handwriting Blast Foundations

		Less	on 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3, 4, and 5
Uni		Phoneme Fluency	High-Frequency, Sight Words	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics Concept, Reading and Spelling
1	Blast	Introduction to Blast I Demonstrate the impaccurately Introduce Blast Stude	oortance of reading	 Introduction to Blast Foundations Structure of the alphabet Letters can have names or sounds Introduce Word Sort 	Introduction to Blast Foundations Short and long vowel sounds and motions Identification of short and long vowel sounds
	Handwiting	Glossary of Handwriti	ing Terminology	Glossary of Handwriting Terminology	Instruction in Verbal Pathways
2	Blast	Consonant Letter Sou Teach Look, Think, So Teach Pop-Up and 3	y! routine	Define phonemeIntroduce sound boxesTeach Finger-stretching	 Introduce Build a Word Closed Syllables Reading & Spelling Closed Syllable words with Short A & Short I Introduce Spell It!
_	Handwiting	• Teach formation: m , t	t, s, a	• Review: m , t , s , a	Capital M, T, S, A (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice
3	Blast	• Consonant Letter Sounds f , d , & r	the, of, you, and, to	• Short A & Long A	 Reading & Spelling Nonsense Words with Short A and Short I Introduce Detective Work Introduce Phrases & Sentences to Read
3	Handwiting	• Teach formation: f , d ,	r, i	• Review: f, d, r, i	Capital F, D, R, I (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice
4	Blast	Consonant Letter Sounds g, I, & h Teach Read a Row game	in, is, for, that, it	• Short I & Long I	Digraph sh Reading & Spelling with Short A and Short I
4	Handwiling	• Teach formation: g , l ,	h, o	• Review: g, l, h, o	 Capital G, L, H, O (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice Write: digraph sh
5	Blast	Consonant Letter Sounds g, I, & h Teach Read a Row game	he, was, his, on, are	• Short I & Long I	Digraph sh Reading & Spelling with Short A and Short I

		Less	on 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3, 4, and 5
Uni		Phoneme Fluency	High-Frequency, Sight Words	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics Concept, Reading and Spelling
5	Handwiting	• Teach formation: b , n	, c , u	• Review: b, n, c, u	Capital B, N, C, U (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice
	Blast	• Consonant Letter Sounds k , w , & v	as, with, this, they, if	• Short O & Long O	• Digraph th
6	Handwiting	• Teach formation: k , w	/, v	• Review: k , w , v	 Capital K, W, V, O (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice Write: digraph th
7	Blast	• Consonant Letter Sounds j , p , & y	at, be, or, have, from	• Short E & Long E	• Reading & Spelling with Short E
7	Handwiting	• Teach formation: j , p ,	у, е	• Review: j , p , y , e	Capital J, P, Y, E (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice
0	Blast	• Consonant Letter Sounds b , x , & z	one, had, by, but, not	Review Short & Long A, Short & Long I	• Digraphs ch & wh
8	Handwiting	• Teach formation: x , z		• Review: b, x, z	Capital X, Z (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice Write: digraphs ch & wh
0	Blast	• Consonant Letter Sounds qu , y , & x	what, all, were, we, when	Review Short & Long O, Short & Long U	• Digraph ck
9	Handwiting	• Teach formation: qu		• Review: qu , y , x	Capital Q (names, proper nouns) Handwriting Application & Practice Write: digraph ck
10	Blast	• Trigraphs tch & dge	your, can, said, there, down	• Review Short & Long E	• Trigraphs tch & dge

		Less	on 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3, 4, and 5
Unit		Phoneme Fluency	High-Frequency, Sight Words	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics Concept, Reading and Spelling
10	Handwiting	Handwriting applicat tch, dge	ion:	Handwriting Cumulative Review	Handwriting Practice & Dictation
11	Blast	• Letter chunks al & all	an, come, which, she, do	Cumulative review of Short and Long Vowels with segmenting	Double Trouble Rule Chunk all
	Handwiting	Handwriting applicat al, all	ion:	Handwriting Cumulative Review	Handwriting Practice & Dictation
12	Blast	• Graphemes ff , II , & ss	how, their, want, will, up	Cumulative review of Short and Long Vowels with blending	• Short vowel spelling rules: Double Trouble, Digraph ck , & Trigraphs tch & dge
12	Handwiting	Handwriting applicat ff, II, ss	ion:	Handwriting Cumulative Review	Handwriting Practice & Dictation
10	Blast	No new letter sounds	may, no, now, came, out	• 2-sound blends	• 2-sound blends
13	Handwiting	Handwriting Applicat Parts of a Sentence (Subject: What is it?)	tion:	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Subject: Identify it)	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Subject: Use it)
14	Blast	No new letter sounds	many, these, then, so, some	Teach Whale Talk Teach Syllable Stomp Teach segmenting syllables	Reading two-syllable words with Closed Syllables
14	Handwiting	Handwriting Applicat Parts of a Sentence (Verb: What is it?)	tion:	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Verb: Identify it)	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Verb: Use it)
15	Blast	No new letter sounds	them, her, would, make, like	Review Whale Talk Review Syllable Stomp Teach blending syllables	Spelling two-syllable words with Closed Syllables

		Less	on 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3, 4, and 5
Unit		Phoneme Fluency	High-Frequency, Sight Words	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics Concept, Reading and Spelling
15	Handwiting	Handwriting Applicat Parts of a Sentence (Makes Sense: What is		Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Makes Sense: Identify It)	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Makes Sense: Use It)
16	Blast	• No new letter sounds	him, into, put, has, look	Review Whale TalkReview Syllable StompReview blending syllables	Open Syllables in one-syllable words
10	Handwiting	Handwriting Applicat Parts of a Sentence (Capital Letter & Pund		Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Capital Letter & Punctuation: Identify It)	Handwriting Application: Parts of a Sentence (Capital Letter & Punctuation: Use It)
17	Blast	• Letter chunk ing	take, go, see, could, where	R-Controlled Vowel /or/	Reading two-syllable words with Open and Closed Syllables Chunk ing
17	Handwiting	Review Parts of a Sen Write New Sound: /ing		Review Parts of a Sentence Write New Sound: /or/	Writing Words and Dictation: Two-syllable words with Open and Closed Syllables & Chunk ing
10	Blast	• Flexibility in sounds (schwa)	any, about, old, here, saw	R-Controlled Vowel /ar/	Reading two-syllable words with schwa
18	Handwiting	• Review Parts of a Sen	tence	• Review Parts of a Sentence	Writing Words and Dictation: Two- syllable words
19	Blast	Vowel-Consonant-e Spellings	little, ask, over, long, very	R-Controlled Vowel /er/	Reading one-syllable words with Vowel-Consonant-e
17	Handwiting	• Review Parts of a Sen	tence	• Review Parts of a Sentence	Write New Words and Dictation: One-syllable words with Vowel- Consonant-e
20	Blast	• Review of Vowel- Consonant-e Spellings	good, around, know, too, every	Cumulative review of R-Controlled Vowels	Reading two-syllable words with Vowel-Consonant-e

		Less	on 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3, 4, and 5
Unit		Phoneme Fluency	High-Frequency, Sight Words	Phonemic Awareness	Phonics Concept, Reading and Spelling
20	Handwiting	Review Parts of a Sen Review Spelling: Vow		Review Parts of a Sentence Review Spelling: Vowel- Consonant-e	Write New Words and Dictation: Two-syllable words with Vowel- Consonant-e
21	Blast	 Long E Vowel Teams ee & ea Long A Vowel Teams ai & ay y spells Long E 	pretty, away, after, think, going	• Other Vowel /oo/	Reading one- and two-syllable words with Long E and Long A Vowel Teams ee, ea, ai, & ay y spells Long E
21	Handwiting	Write New Sounds: New Vowel Teams (ee Long E)	e & ea, ai & ay, y spells	Review Parts of a Sentence Review Writing Vowel Teams ee, ea, ai, & spells Long E	Write New Words and Dictation: One and two-syllable words with Long E and Long A Vowel Teams ee, ea, ai, & ay & y spells Long E
00	Blast	Long I Vowel Spelling igh Long O Vowel Team oa	walk, before, again, who, been	Other Vowel /oi/	Reading one- and two-syllable words with Long I Spelling igh & Long O Vowel Team oa
22	Handwiting	Review Sentence Writ Write New Sounds: Ne (Long I Vowel Spelling Team oa)	-	Review Sentence Writing Review Writing Vowel Spelling igh & Vowel Team oa	Write New Words and Dictation: One and two-syllable words with Long I Spelling igh & Long O Vowel Team oa
	Blast	• 3 Sounds of Suffix - ed	goes, always, because, own, only	Other Vowel /ou/	• 3 Sounds of Suffix -ed
23	Handwiting	Review Sentence Writ Write New Sounds: Su	o .	Review Sentence Writing Review Writing Suffix -ed	• Write New Words and Dictation: 3 Sounds of Suffix - ed
	Blast	• Inflectional Endings -er, -ed, -s, -es, & -ing	give, our, both, does, write	Other Vowel /oo/	Reading Words with Inflectional Endings
24	Handwiting	Review Sentence Writ Write New Sounds: In (-er, -ed, -s, -es, & -ing)	flectional Endings	 Review Sentence Writing Review Writing Inflectional Endings (-er, -ed, -s, -es, & -ing) 	Write New Words and Dictation: Inflectional Endings
	Blast	Cumulative Review & 0	Celebration	Cumulative Review of Other Vowels	Cumulative Review & Celebration
25	Handwiting	Cumulative Handwrit	ing Review	Review Sentence Writing Sentence Dictation	Sentence Dictation

Really Great Handwriting Blast Scope and Sequence

Really Great Handwriting includes two scopes and sequences. One scope and sequence follows Blast's scope and sequence. This alignment is powerful because it allows students to connect the sound, formation, and identification of the letter together. This can lead to increased mastery and strengthens orthographic mapping.

The additional scope and sequence is organized based on the letter's formation using vocabulary from our verbal pathways. When letters are grouped by formation and not a phonics sequence, students are able to learn, reinforce, and master similar strokes that are used to form letters. This can help students avoid reversals and practice orienting their letters correctly.

The additional scope and sequence can be used to support students who are struggling to remember the formation patterns. Teachers can reference this scope and sequence to find letters that students have mastered and formed similarly to the letters students are struggling with. Teachers can use the strokes from the mastered letter and help their students compare it to the letter the students are struggling with. The scope and sequence can also give students confidence in knowing that they are able to use just a handful of strokes to form every letter in the alphabet. Arranging letters by formation can help students master letter formations quickly which frees up more working memory for decoding, encoding, and comprehension.







	×		
Planet O Letters	Star Line Letters	Moon Line Letters	Zoom Letters
а	b	i	٧
С	f	j	W
d	h	m	X
е	k	n	У
g	I	р	Z
0	t	r	
q		U	
S			
С	F	В	Α
G	I	D	V
0	J	E	W
Qυ	Т	Н	X
S		K	Υ
		L	Z
		Μ	
		N	
		P	
		R	
		U	

Orbital Pathways: Preparing for Letter Formation

Rationale

Really Great Handwriting features scripts (verbal paths) for formation of each lowercase and uppercase letter, as well as for the numbers 0-9. Verbal pathways use distinctive directional words to help students remember how to form the letters correctly. Really Great Handwriting uses consistent vocabulary in the verbal pathway for each letter. The vocabulary in this activity will allow students to practice using the vocabulary in the verbal pathways before they are asked to apply it to letter formation. In Really Great Handwriting, handwriting instruction is an opportunity to not only teach students how to form letters, but also as a pathway to spelling and writing success.

Sample Glossary of the Pathways:

Zoom: move diagonally

Land: move straight down

Thrust: move straight (or around) to the left or to the

right

Take Off: move straight up

Lift Off: pick up the pencil

Touch Down: put down the pencil

Plunge: move down past the Earth line

Fall: move down toward the Earth line, but not straight

Orbit: move counter-clockwise around

Thump: move to hit a line and then continue

Sample verbal pathways

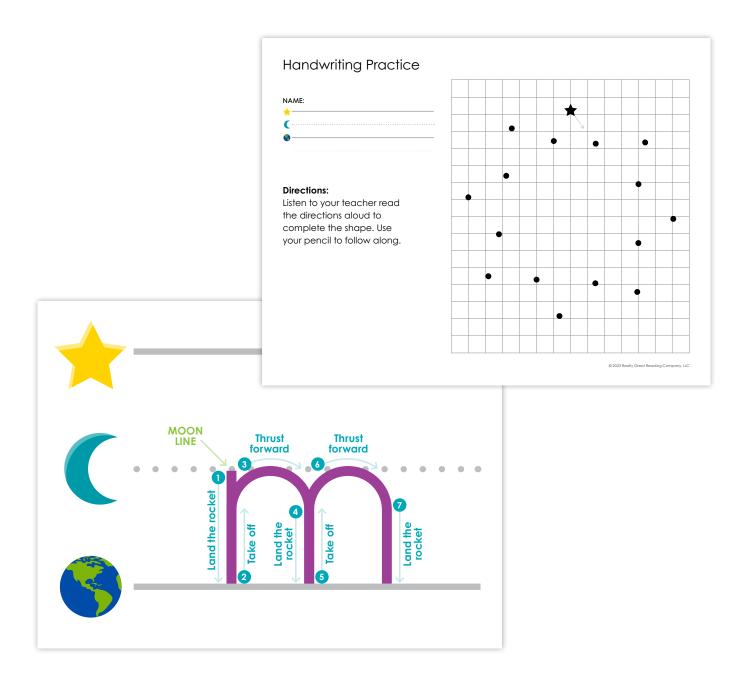
- **a:** Moon line, orbit Planet O, take off, thump, land the rocket
- **j:** Moon line, plunge past the Earth line and curve back, stop. Lift off, black hole.
- **m:** Moon line, land the rocket; take off, thrust forward, land, take off, thrust forward, land the rocket
- o: Moon line, orbit around Planet O
- **x:** Moon line, zoom to Earth, lift off up to moon line, zoom back to Earth

Sample Directions

- 1. Place the tip of your pencil on the star.
- 2. Follow the arrow and zoom your pencil down to the first dot.
- 3. Zoom up to the next dot.
- 4. Land your pencil down to the next dot.
- 5. Zoom out toward the edge of your paper.
- 6. Zoom in toward the center of your paper.
- 7. Freeze.
- 8. Zoom down.
- 9. Thrust back.
- 10. Freeze.
- 11. Zoom down.
- 12. Freeze.
- 13. Zoom up.
- 14. Zoom down.
- 15. Zoom up.
- 16. Freeze.
- 17. Thrust back.
- 18. Zoom in.
- 19. Zoom out.
- 20. Zoom in.
- 21. Freeze.
- 22. Take off.
- 23. Zoom in.
- 24. Zoom to the star.

Orbital Pathways: Preparing for Letter Formation

Below are two ways that the orbital pathways are reinforced and practiced in Blast's Really Great Handwriting.



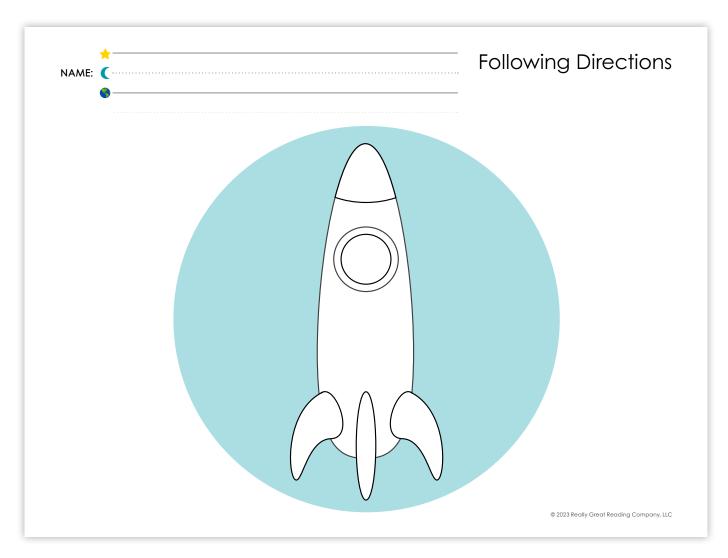
Command Center: Following Directions

Rationale

Following directions is an important part of the school environment and plays a major role in their school day. Students learn to follow directions to navigate the classroom and the school. Additionally, directions help students learn information. Students will follow directions to learn how to form letters or learn how to read. Really Great Handwriting includes several activities that help students practice following directions while learning some of the language and stamina needed to eventually write letters. This activity combines following directions with Countdown's directional words to prepare students for letter formation. It also leverages the Countdown Sound Story characters in a fun and engaging way.

Sample Directions

- 1. Before coloring the nose of the rocket, color one of the fins purple.
- 2. Next, color the window blue.
- 3. After coloring the window blue, color the other two fins red.
- 4. Next, color the outline of the window black.
- 5. Before you color the body of the rocket, draw some fire coming out the bottom.
- 6. Last, color the body of the rocket your favorite color.



Space Walk: Building Fine Motor Skills

Rationale

Connecting dots is a great activity to help students build fine motor skills. It allows students to practice their pencil grip, posture, and paper placement before learning letter formation. This also allows students to practice having pencil control during writing, practice different handwriting strokes, and practice following directional words and handwriting vocabulary terms. This is also a good opportunity for students to understand how much pressure to use with their pencil during writing. Students can complete the activity by coloring in the picture using crayons. This gives students one more opportunity to build their fine motor skills.

Sample Directions

- 1. Say: "We are going to practice controlling our pencil today! We are going to go on a space walk to create the astronaut's helmet. We are going to do this activity as a class. Remember, it's not a race. Place the tip of your pencil on the star. We'll move in the direction of the arrows. Ready? Let's step to the first dot. Ok, let's step again! Stop! Let's take two steps now! Stop! Let's take three steps." (Students use their pencils to connect the dots.)
- 2. Continue this pattern of alternating between your choice of a number of "steps" and stops to complete the rest of the helmet.
- 3. Remind students to follow your directions and to stay in control as needed.

Handwriting Practice NAME: Directions: Connect the dots to draw an astronaut's helmet. Don't let your lines cross!

Sample Handwriting Lesson

This Dictation lesson comes after students have learned the letter formations for the Cluster 2 letters.

Unit 3 | Day 5

Cluster 2: d, r, f, i

Objectives

- Students will use their knowledge of phonemes and graphemes to properly form the lowercase letters d, f, r, and i during dictation.
- Students will be able to write graphemes, words, phrases, and sentences with the letters in Clusters 1 & 2.

Description

Students will be able to apply their new letter formation skills by writing graphemes, words, phrases, and sentences using Cluster 1 & 2 letters during dictation

Really Great Handwriting

Materials

- Handwriting Paper
- Blast Online
- Cluster 2 animations as needed

Handwriting Application

Say "Today we are going to practice the sounds and letter formations that we have learned this week." (Open Blast Online.) Before we begin dictation, let's review the letters' names, sounds, and formations from Cluster 2." Ask students to identify the letters d, f, r, i and their sounds. (Students respond). As they identify their letter names and sounds, say the verbal pathway for each letter and have students repeat after you. (Students respond.) "Great! Now let's move into our Bridge time."

Orbital Pathways

Review (if needed):

- m: Moon line, land the rocket; take off, thrust forward, land; take off, thrust forward, land the rocket
- **t:** Star line, land the rocket; lift off to just above the moon, thrust forward
- **s:** Moon line, small orbit of Planet O, stop, curve back to Earth
- **a:** Moon line, orbit Planet O, take off, thump, land the rocket

Unit 3 (Cluster 2) Pathways:

- **d:** Moon line, orbit Planet O, take off to the stars, thump, land the rocket
- **f:** Star line, curve up and back, land the rocket; lift off to the moon line, thrust forward
- r: Moon line, land the rocket; thump, take off, thrust forward, stop
- i: Moon line, land the rocket; lift off, black hole

Handwriting Application

Dictation:

- Pass out handwriting paper.
- Quickly review 3-Ps so that students are ready and in handwriting position.
- Quickly review Bridge routine (finger stretching for onesyllable words, Syllable Stomp and/or Whale Talk for multisyllabic words, and arm tapping for phrases or sentences).

Words	Phrases	Sentences
fit	dim it fast	The sad rat sits.
mat	to the fat and mad rat	Did you fit?
sift		

Teacher Jottings

- As students are writing, be sure to check to make sure students are forming their letters correctly.
- Monitor pencil grip, paper position, and posture.
- Make sure students are always starting their letters at the top.
- If students are struggling to form the letters, remind them to use the verbal pathways for support.

Handwriting Editing

- Complete Self-Editing Checklist routine with the telescope.
- Have students mark their best word, phrase, and sentence.
- Have students mark their word, phrase, and sentence that need the most work.
- Say "Remember, your best might look different than your neighbor's best and that's okay. We celebrate everyone's talents and strengths, and we learn to grow and develop in areas that we may not be the best at."

Telescope Routine

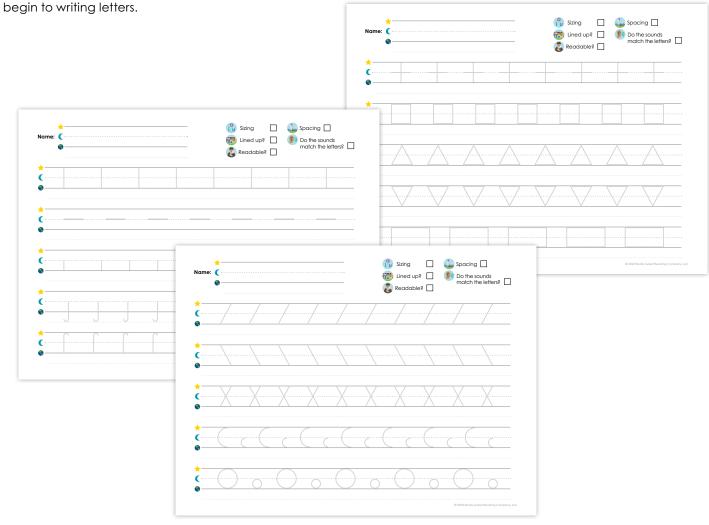
Really Great Handwriting teaches students to use "telescopes" to look closely at their writing to check for mistakes and to make sure they have done their best. This is similar to how scientists use telescopes to be able to see things that are far away with a clear view and to see things in detail. There are three options described in the teacher materials for how students can edit their writing with the Telescope Routine, along with an editing checklist.

Workbook and Printable Foundational Materials

Rationale

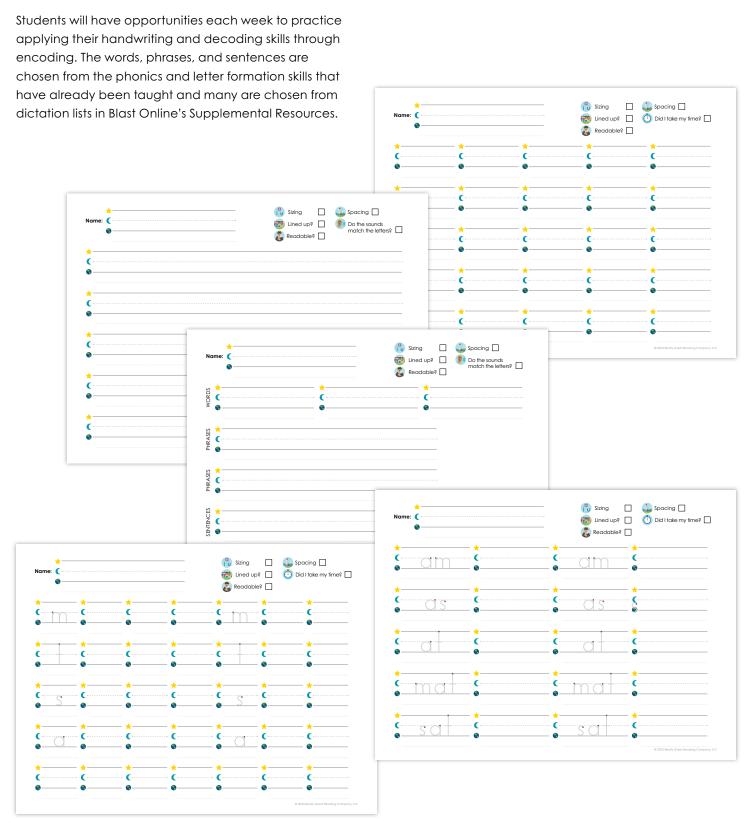
There are multiple milestones that students need to master before they are ready to begin writing letters.

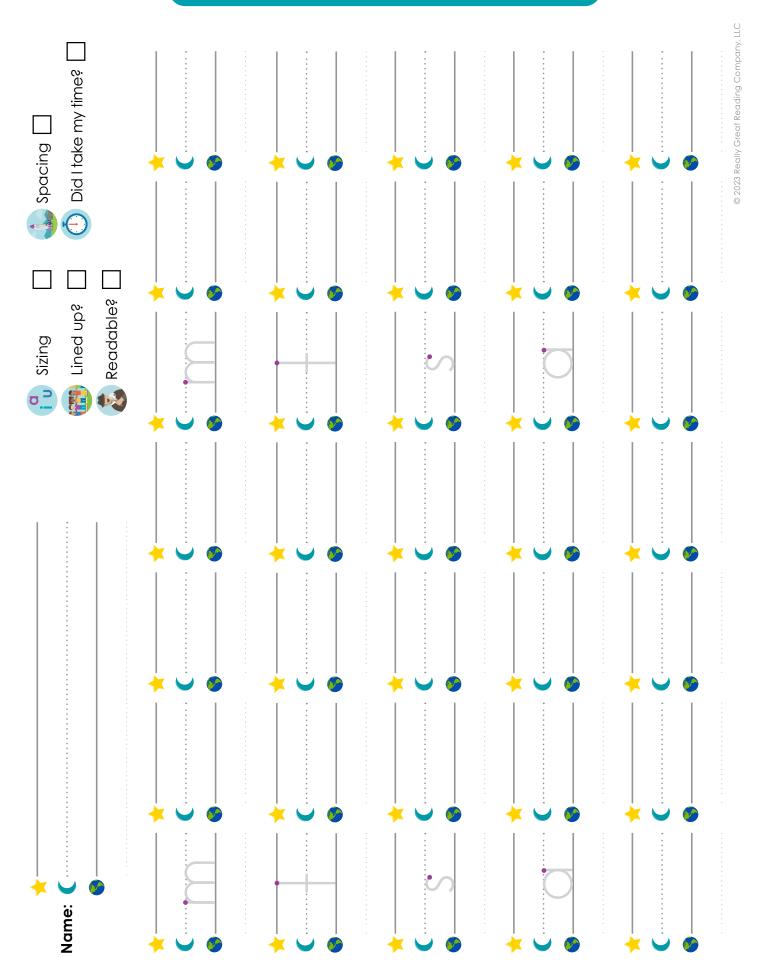
These milestones include handwriting posture, pencil grip, paper placement, forming shapes, and handwriting strokes. Students need to build gross and fine motor strength with these milestones before they are ready to

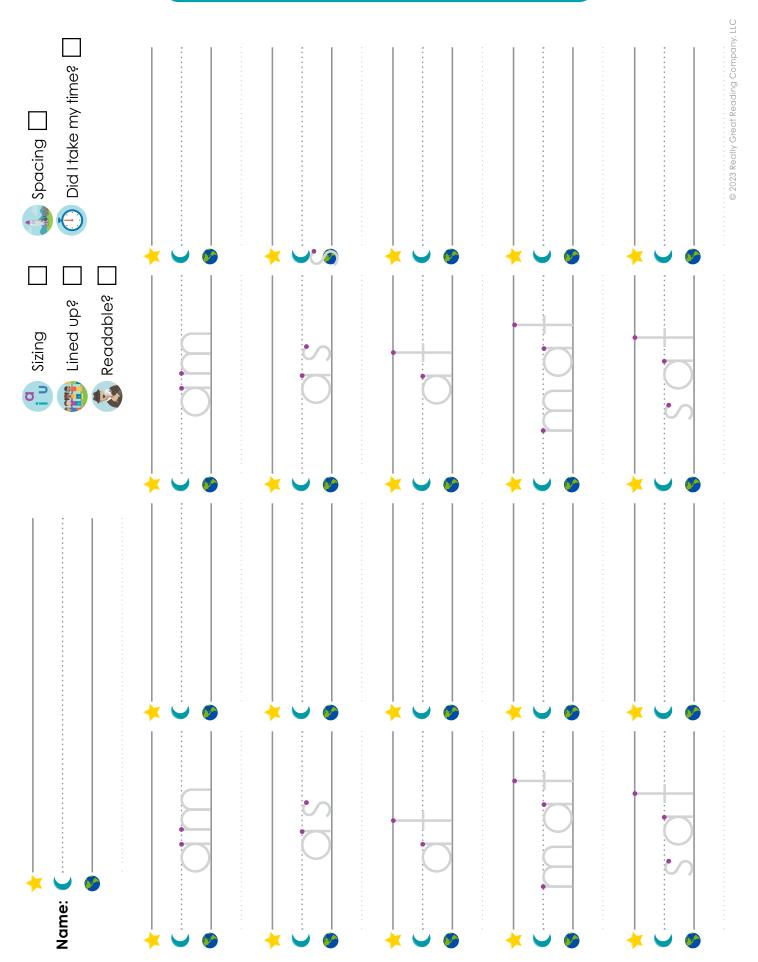


Workbook and Printable Handwriting & Dictation Materials

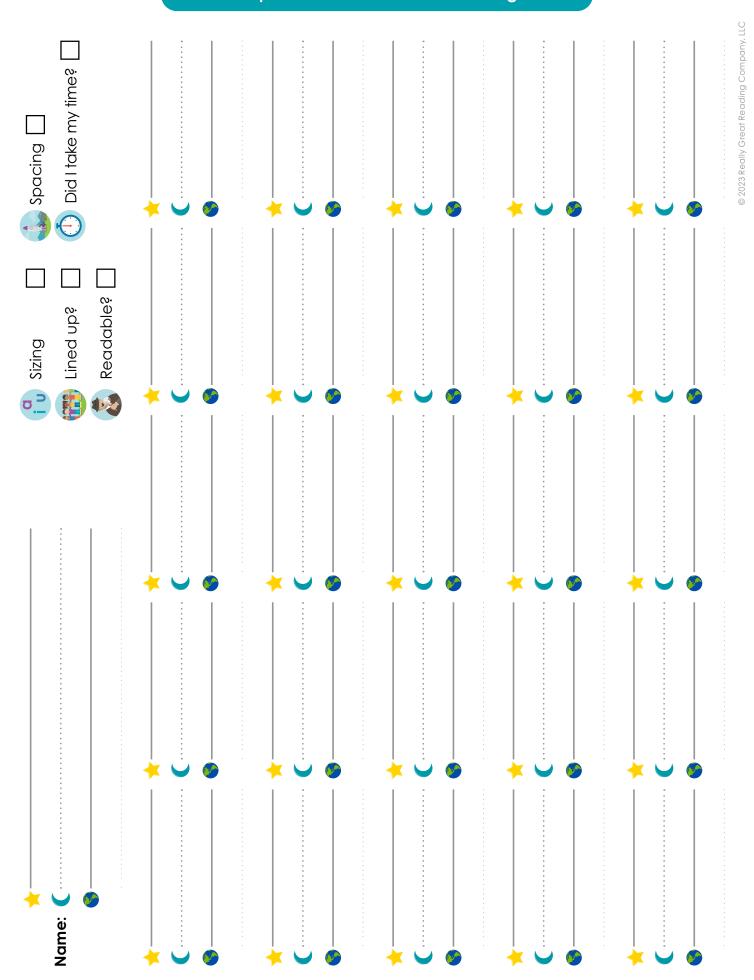
Rationale



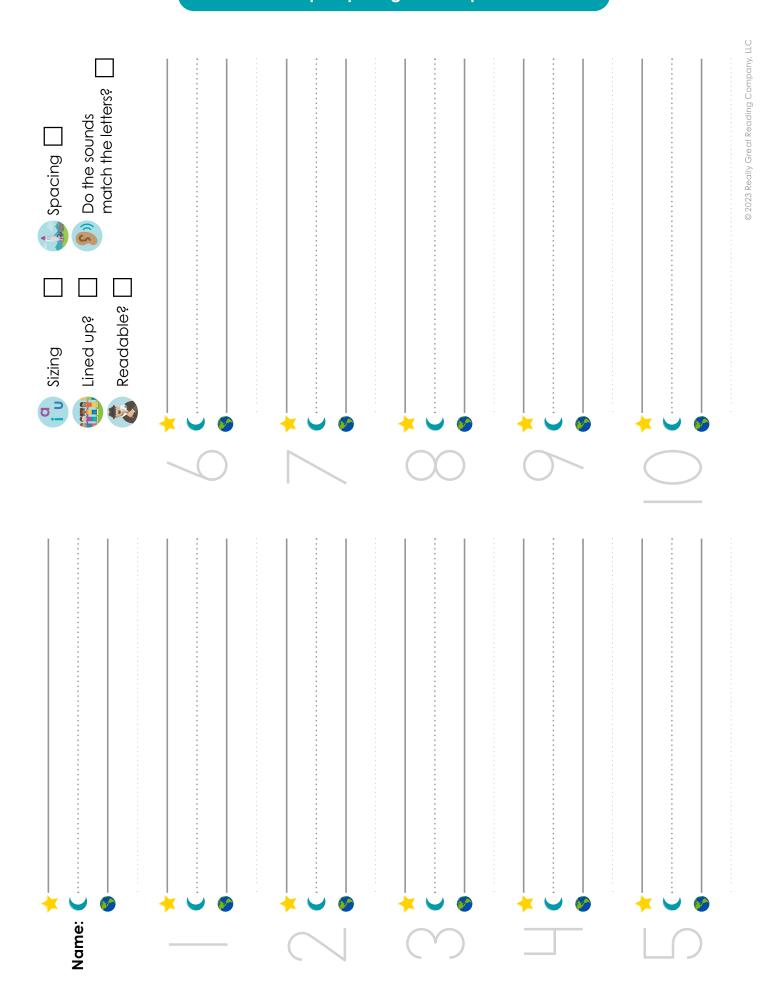




Sample Letter Formation Practice Page



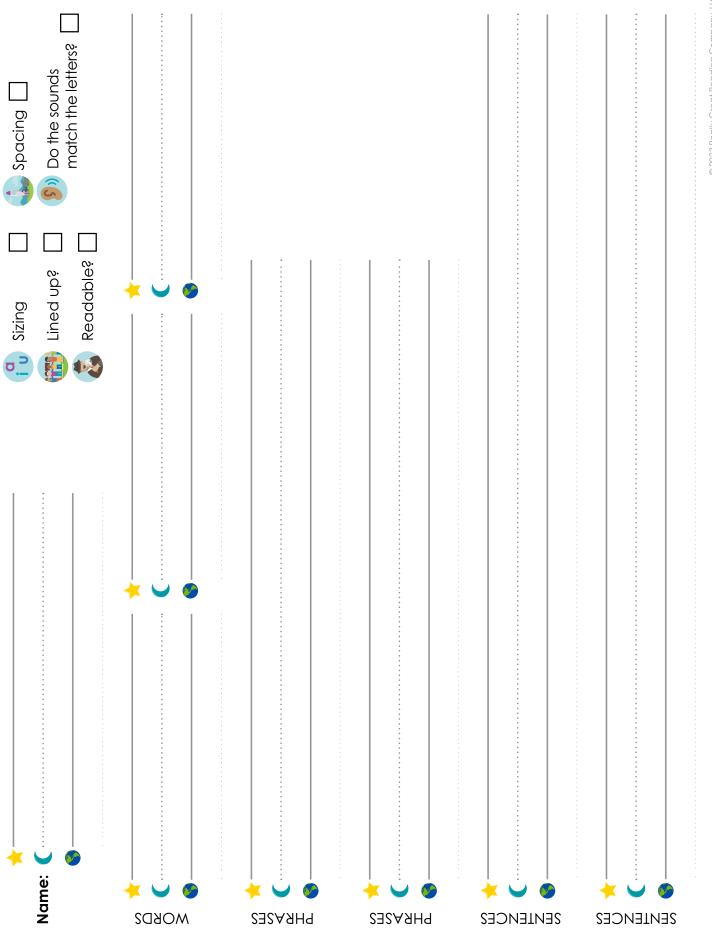
Sample Spelling Test Template



Sample Spelling Test with Dictation Option Page

Name:		Sizing		Spacing	
		Lined up?		Do the sounds match the letters?	
* \	*				
*	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \				
(
\sim					
©					
	\				
		- •	- •	- •	
		dictation	dictation	dictation	

Sample Dictation Page



Digital Materials

Housed in Blast Online are animations that teach students how to form letters and numerals in a fun and engaging way. The animations provide students with the visual support and the verbal pathways to understand how to form each letter. Animations will be embedded within lessons in Blast Online and within the Handwriting section of Blast Online's Supplemental Resources. There will be animations for lowercase letters, capital letters, digraphs, and numerals.

Click here to view a sample animation for the lowercase letter m.

