

## Welcome to Learn Your Letters, Learn to Serve!

Written by Laura Copping  
of [HeavenlyHomemakers.com](http://HeavenlyHomemakers.com)

### About the Author:

Laura Copping received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education in 1995. She became a stay at home mom when her first son was born in 1997 and began teaching her own kids at home (as soon as they were home from the hospital) officially in 2002. She and her husband Matt have homeschooled their four sons for nine years at the time of this writing. You'll find her daily musings, healthy recipes and family encouragement at her website, [www.heavenlyhomemakers.com](http://www.heavenlyhomemakers.com).



## Learn Your Letters, Learn to Serve

The ideas from this book were born when our second son was a preschooler. We wanted to come up with a fun way to teach him his letter sounds that would be hands on and practical. But, we were even more interested in teaching our children how to think of others and to *serve others*.

At the time, we were “winging it”. We taught him one new letter sound each week. For each letter, we did several different activities, all of which began with the sound of the letter for the week. For instance on Dd week, we surprised **Daddy** with **donuts**. We found toys in our toy box that started with Dd. We did writing activities to reinforce his learning of the sound and so that he would learn the correct way to write Dd.

Then, the real fun began! Early in the week, we chose someone that we knew whose name began with Dd, we made our plans...and at the end of the week we took that person something that began with Dd. These activities became fun for the whole family as we got creative each week with our new letter. Our older son had fun coming up with ideas of things to do, or people to serve. We all enjoyed hopping in the van to deliver our surprise to the unsuspecting person who *just happened* to have the right letter to begin his or her name that week!

Even more fun was the response from our recipients! When we took Mini Muffins to the Millers, we received a wonderful thank you note the following week, in which Mrs. Miller thanked us very Much for the Marvelous Mini Muffins that they got to Munch on Monday. The kids loved the card! When we took Flowers to Felice, she wrote back thanking us for the Fun and Fabulous Flowers that were so Fragrant and Fantastic. After Tina received a new Toy on Tuesday, she wrote back a note with a big T on the front saying: T is for Thanks! It was a blast to see how everyone got into our project with us and helped enforce our learning of letter sounds and our love of service.

We tried to encourage our kids to think of people who would be the most cheered by our service. If we decided to do more than one person each week, we thought of people in different age groups. In other words, they couldn't always just choose their favorite friends. We urged them to choose older folks, their friend's parents, teenagers, people of all ages! By doing this, our children had the wonderful opportunity to get to know people that they may not have had the chance to get to know otherwise.

We began our project in an effort to teach our children to bless others. The blessings we all received in return were so rich, and the memories of those days are forever stored in our hearts.

This book was written as a curriculum guide for children ages two through seven. As your child learns letter sounds by doing the fun activities described in this book...he or she will also learn to be a loving servant. There are nine sections in each lesson to help your child learn the letter sound in a variety of ways.

### **1. What Does the Bible Say?**

There is a verse for your child to memorize that begins with the letter of the week (or has an important word in the verse that includes that letter). The Scriptures can be printed and posted on the wall in alphabetical order. Along with memorizing the scriptures, discuss them with your child to help them understand God's Words. You will find these scripture print out pages in the **Scripture Memory Packet**. Your child can decorate these pages if he/she wishes.

In addition, each letter lesson includes a Bible person or character trait for you to read about with your child. You'll find the Scripture references in each "What does the Bible Say?" section of the letter lesson.

### **2. Write Away**

Each letter has a corresponding worksheet that will offer reinforcement on the letter sound, as well as space to practice writing each letter. You are welcome to teach your child to write the letter in whatever form you are most comfortable with. You will find all of these printable sheets in the **Alphabet Practice Packet**.

### **3. Sing the Sound**

There is a short song to sing as you teach each letter sound (set to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell). In the instance of a vowel letter, there are long and short vowel sound versions of the song. Singing helps commit the letter sounds to memory. Sing the songs as many times as you wish, or make up your own varieties of letter sound songs!

### **4. Books to Read**

There are thousands of wonderful books to read, and you and your child(ren) can have fun each week going to the library to pick out books that include the letter sound you are studying. I have included a suggested list for each week to get you started.

### **5. Talk, Think and Learn**

This section will provide a few questions for you to discuss with your child. The main idea of these questions will begin with the letter sound you are studying. Expand on any of these questions as much or as little as you wish.

### **6. Things to Do Together**

You'll find several suggestions for activities, games and projects written in this section, all based on the letter of the lesson. The **Alphabet Project Packet** contains printables for activities suggested in this section.

7. **Things to Make:** Patterns, recipes and craft ideas are listed in this section to give your child some fun, creative reinforcement of the letter sound he or she is learning.
8. **Ways to Serve:** This section is the most important! You and your child will choose one to four people or families whose name begins with the letter you are studying each week. Together, you will create something fun to take to someone special. For instance, on **Bb** week, you might **bake banana bread** and take it to the **Baker** family and **Barbara** and **Brenda**. To make it even more fun, tie a **bow** around your **banana bread**. This section provides an opportunity for your child to use the information he or she has learned during the week to serve others. When my family and I did this, brainstorming together about what to make or buy for someone and choosing who to serve was the most fun and rewarding part of our Letter Learning Journey!

## 9. Recipes and Instructions Tool Box

All of the recipes and activity instructions will be found at the end of each lesson in a section labeled *Recipes and Instructions Tool Box* unless otherwise noted.

### **It is important for me to mention...**

Part of the joy of *Learn Your Letters, Learn to Serve* is **to let your children come up with their own ideas** as they practice learning letter sounds. While you can use any of the ideas written for you in this book, please let it also serve as inspiration for *your family* to learn creativity as you come up with your own wonderful ideas to match the letter sounds of the week. Have your own ideas for recipes you can make or items you can take to someone? Go for it!

### **It is also very important for me to mention...**

You should NOT feel like you need to do *every* project or idea suggested in this curriculum kit!!! I listed a large number of ideas in each section in order to give you options and choices. Forcing yourself to do all of them may take away from the joy of learning and serving with your child(ren)! Pick and choose what will be the most fun and most educational for your family. Don't forget to add your own creative ideas! As much as possible, get the whole family involved in the activities, projects and service opportunities!

**You will find additional planning and instructional information in the *Parent's Planning Packet*!**

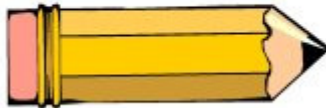
The  
Letter  
Bb

## What Does the Bible Say?



- Work to memorize Psalm 84:4. Print the scripture card and place it on the wall.
- Read about Jesus healing the **blind** man. (John 9)

## Write Away!



- On the writing worksheet (Alphabet Practice Packet pg. 3) teach your child to write Bb.
- On this same page write all the words that your child can think of that begin with Bb.

## Sing the Sound!



(sung to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell)

*The letter Bb says bbb  
The letter Bb says bbb  
Like bat and box and basketball  
The letter Bb says bbb*

## Books to Read!



- The **B Book**, by Dr. Seuss
- **Bread** is for Eating, by David and Phillis Gershator
- The **Bicycle** Man, by Allen Say

Talk,  
Think  
and  
Learn!



- What does it mean to **bless** someone? Who has **blessed** you? How can you **bless** others?
- Why is the **Bible** so important?
- What does it mean to be **brave**? Have you ever been **brave**? Do you know someone who is **brave**?

## Things to Do Together



- Learn how to make your **bed** very neatly.
- Take a family **bicycle** ride.
- **Build** a tower with **blocks**.
- **Bead Bowls** (page 18)
- **Blow** up several **balloons** and **bop** them around together. Don't let them touch the floor! Start with just one **balloon** to see how long you can keep it off the floor, then keep adding more and more.
- Cut **bread** into shapes with cookie cutters (like a **bear** or **bunny**) then spread with **butter** for a snack.
- Toss **balls** of all different kinds into a **basket**. Start close to the **basket**, then keep **backing** up to see how far away you can get from the **basket** and still get the **balls** in.



## Things to Make!



- **Beanie Balls** (page 19)
- **Build a Bug** (page 18)
- **Brownie Bites** (page 17 )
- **Big Bubbles** (page 17)

## Ways to Serve!



- Make a list of everyone you can think of whose name begins with Bb. Pray for these people all week. \_\_\_\_\_

- Look on a map or globe to find countries that begin with the letter Bb. Make a list of these countries. Pray for the missionaries you may know who are in these countries teaching people about Jesus. Pray for the Christians in these countries and for the people who don't know about Jesus yet.

- Take a new **book** to **B** \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Buy** a new **Bible** for someone who needs it.
- **Bake Brownie Bites** (page 17) to take to **B** \_\_\_\_\_.
- Think of more ways you can serve that begin with the letter Bb:

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# Recipes and Instructions Toolbox



## Big Bubbles

5 cups water  
1/3 cup light corn syrup  
2/3 cup liquid dish soap

Mix ingredients into a large dishpan. Cut large holes in plastic lids of different sizes (like old butter tub or ice cream buckets). Leave only the outer rim uncut. Dip the lids into the tub of bubble soap to blow giant bubbles.

## Brownie Bites

1 stick of butter, melted  
1 cup sugar  
1/4 cup cocoa  
1 egg  
1 t. vanilla  
3/4 cup whole wheat flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Mix all ingredients together thoroughly. Put spoonfuls of dough into paper lined mini muffin baking pans. Bake for 15 minutes.



## Bead Bowls

Provide your child with a big bowl full of colorful beads in different sizes and shapes. Give them several small bowls and some spoons and scoops. Allow them to play with the beads any way they wish. Encourage them to separate the beads into separate colors, sizes or shapes.



Supplies you will need:

Styrofoam balls  
Pipe cleaners  
Googly eyes

Scissors  
Glue bottles  
Paints and brushes  
Paint shirt

## Build a Bug

How to Build a Bug:

1. Paint the styrofoam balls any color or colors. Allow paint to dry.
2. Create bugs by poking pipe cleaners into balls to make legs and antennae. Cut wings from cardstock and glue on. Glue googly eyes into place. Draw mouth or any other feature on bug.

## Beanie Balls

Supplies you will need:

Three 12 inch balloons of two different colors, for each ball

Bag of lentils

Funnel

Scissors

How to make a Beanie Ball:

1. Blow up one balloon and hold it for about 30 seconds.
2. Use the funnel to pour in  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of lentils. You may need to manipulate the balloon a bit to get the lentils to fit.
3. Cut off the neck of the two remaining balloons.
4. Fold the neck of the lentil balloon over. Stretch a second balloon over it.
5. Stretch a third balloon over that one to complete your ball.



Bike starts with Bb. Think of more words that start with Bb and draw them or write them in this space.



Practice writing Bb.

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Blessed are those  
who dwell in  
your house;  
they are ever  
praising you.

Psalm 84:4