Pre-K 4, week 3: the letter a and how many

This week your learner will hear the short a sound, as in apple and ant, and answer "how many?" after counting up to 5 things. Each activity takes about 10 minutes. Print the pages, or use things you already have at home.

5-minute prep

- Write a big A and a small a on a sheet of paper.
- Gather 5 blocks or toy cars and a bowl.
- Print pages 2 to 5, or skip printing and use the no-supplies swaps.

Household supplies: Paper, crayons, 5 blocks or toy cars, a bowl. No supplies? Every card has a swap.

The week at a glance

Day	Focus	Pieces
Monday	Letter a	Letter a page, Apple or ant card
Tuesday	Math	How many page, Block count card
Wednesday	Explore	My family card
Thursday	Make and move	Zigzag trace page, Ant march card
Friday	Story and review	Song of the week, Parent notes page
Every day	Read aloud, sing, play outside	Read any picture book together, sing the song of the week, and do a feelings check-in.

Contents

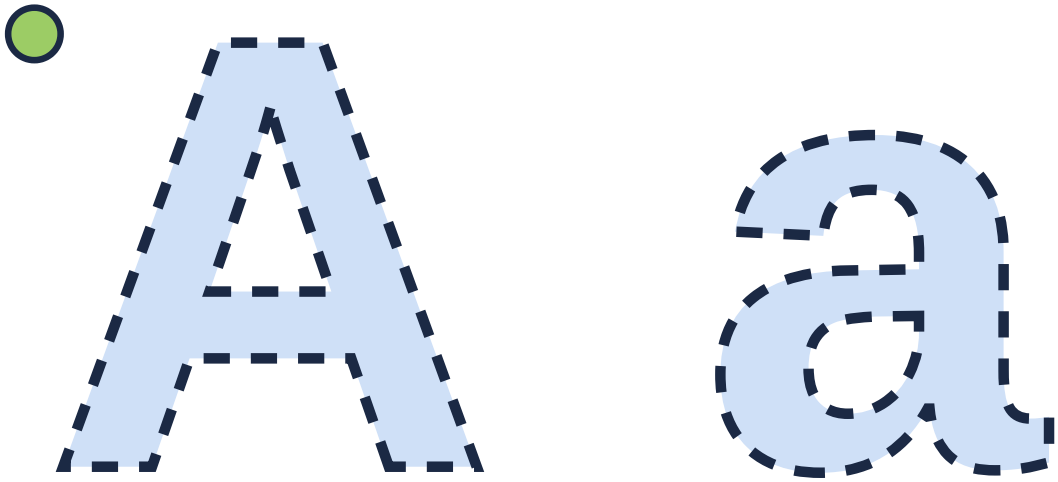
Printable: Letter a 2
Printable: How many? 3
Printable: My family 4
Printable: Zigzag trace 5
Activity cards 6
Song of the week and parent notes 8
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Safety

- Use objects too big to fit in your learner's mouth, and stay close during any counting with real objects.
- Child-size scissors only, with an adult watching. Hand scissors over handle first.
- Choose crayons, markers and paint labeled for young learners (look for the AP seal).
- Adults handle anything hot or sharp.

Letter a

Say: "A says a, like apple and ant." Your learner traces the big A and the small a, then colors the pictures that start with a.





apple



ant



acorn

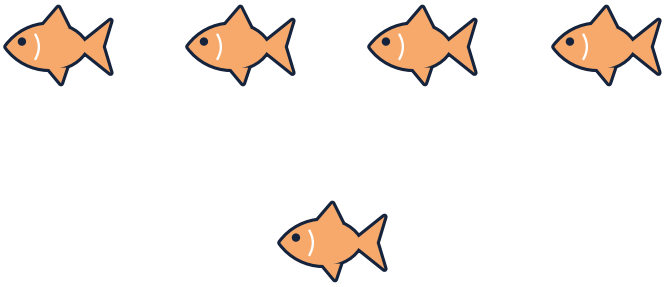
No supplies swap. No printer? Draw an a in the air, then on your learner's back with one finger.

How many?

Say: "Count them. How many are there?" Your learner counts each group, then colors the same number of dots.













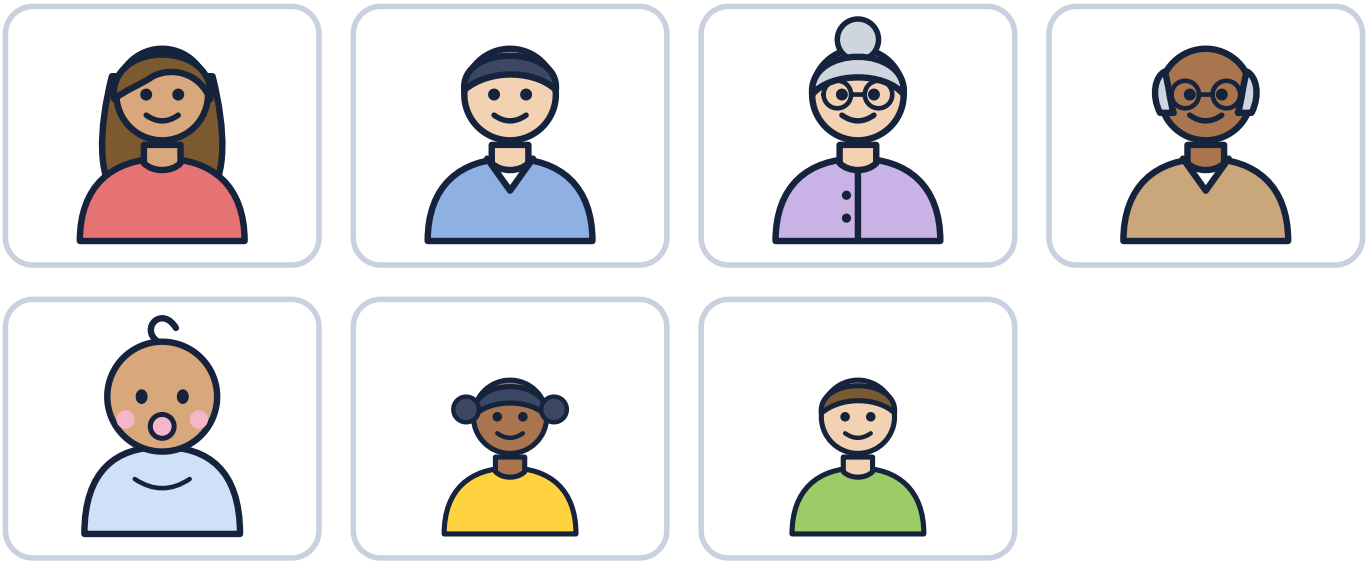




No supplies swap. No printer? Put up to 5 toys in a row and ask "how many?"

My family

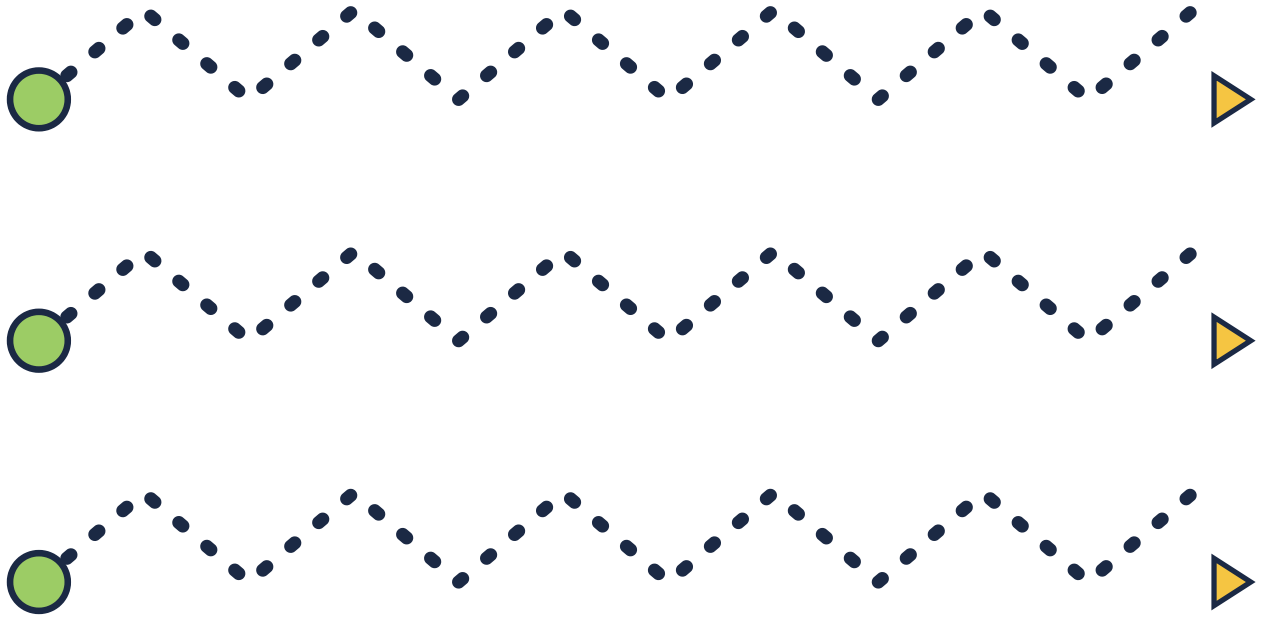
Say: "Who is in our family? Point and tell me." Your learner points to each picture, names who it reminds them of, and colors it.



No supplies swap. No printer? Look at family photos together and name each person.

Zigzag trace

Say: "Up and down, like a mountain. Start at the green dot." Your learner traces each zigzag from left to right.



No supplies swap. No printer? Make zigzags with a finger in a tray of flour.



Apple or ant

Time: 10 minutes · **You need:** Nothing

1. Say "a, a, apple" and "a, a, ant" together.
2. Say a word. If it starts with the a sound, your learner stands up.
3. Try: apple, ball, ant, cat, alligator.

Easier: Use only apple and ball. **Next step:** Your learner says an a word for you.

Say this: "Ant starts with a. Stand up."

No supplies: Needs nothing.

Builds: Literacy: phonological awareness · Stay close and keep small objects away from mouths.

cut here



Block count

Time: 5 minutes · **You need:** 5 blocks or toy cars, a bowl

1. Put some blocks in the bowl, up to 5.
2. Your learner takes them out one at a time and counts.
3. Ask "How many?" The last number is the answer.

Easier: Use up to 3. **Next step:** Your learner puts 4 in the bowl for you.

Say this: "One, two, three, four. Four blocks."

No supplies: Count steps from the door to the table.

Builds: Math: counting and cardinality · Stay close and keep small objects away from mouths.



My family

Time: 10 minutes · **You need:** Family photos (optional)

1. Name the people your learner lives with.
2. Count them together.
3. Your learner tells one thing each person likes.

Easier: Name 2 people. **Next step:** Draw the family and count the people.

Say this: "Who reads with you at night?"

No supplies: Talk about the family with no photos.

Builds: Social-emotional: sense of identity and belonging · Stay close and keep small objects away from mouths.

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Ant march

Time: 5 minutes · **You need:** Space to move

1. March like ants in a line.
2. Count steps out loud up to 5, then stop.
3. Turn around and march back.

Easier: March and stop without counting. **Next step:** March 10 steps.

Say this: "Ants march, one, two, three, four, five, stop."

No supplies: Needs nothing but space.

Builds: Physical: gross motor · Stay close and keep small objects away from mouths.

Song of the week: Apple, ant

Apple, ant, a, a, a,
I can say the sound today.
Open wide and say it, too,
A for me and a for you.

Actions: Open your mouth wide on each "a". **Try next:** Count how many times you sing "a".

Original UpOnly Learning words, say or sing it in any rhythm

Parent notes: what did you see this week?

This is not a test. Tick what you noticed, and practice the rest next week. Keep this page; it stays with you.

I saw my learner…	Seen it	Not yet
Says the short a sound	☐	☐
Finds a on a page	☐	☐
Answers "how many?" after counting up to 5	☐	☐
Names the people in the family	☐	☐

Next: week 4 of 36. If you have concerns about your learner's development, talk with your pediatrician.

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