



Activities and Materials

With the Basic Code, there are three types of activities for learning: videos, pages, and games. Because learning is interactive, your child uses manipulatives on the pages, makes many games, and uses all of the senses to learn.¹ All of the videos and pages are provided for you. The following inexpensive, hands-on materials are all the supplies you'll need. For direct links to supplies fitting the descriptions below, visit the True North Reading "Resources" page at <https://truenorthreading.com/resources/>.

Your Supplies List

To complete the pages, activities, and games correctly, gather the following materials before you begin.

❑1. A small wipe-off, dry-erase board (plain)

The "best" dry-erase board will be small and easy to hold (9 x 12 or 8½ x 11 inches). Inexpensive wipe-off boards can often be found at dollar stores, as well as online. A board with lines isn't necessary, but a two-sided board with lines can be used for handwriting for older children, as well. A piece of cloth can be used as an eraser, or you can buy an eraser (optional).



Plain Dry-Erase Board

OR



Two-Sided Dry-Erase Board
(plain and lined)

Money-saving tip: The wipe-off, dry-erase board actually saves money that would have been spent on paper.

❑2. Two wipe-off markers: one black and one of any other light color

When using the wipe-off board, the letters and Sound Pictures for the Basic Code are always (and only) written in black. This is so that new readers don't "cue off of color" instead of truly learning the Sound Pictures. The marks that are made on the Sound Pictures ck, qu, and s-buzz are written with the lighter colored marker.² "Fatter" markers are best for small hands to hold; also, a larger tip is more "forgiving" (the child doesn't have to be precise, to trace a line or write with a larger tip). If your child is older and can hold a writing tool in a standard "pencil grip," the medium-tipped marker works well; but if your child doesn't have a proper writing hand position in place yet, use a larger marker.

¹ Game making is an important part of learning – helping your child to learn faster and remember longer.

² The ck and qu "have a box drawn around the Sound Picture"; the s-buzz "has a squiggly-line drawn underneath the Sound Picture."



Wider, Thicker Markers

OR



Medium-Tipped Markers

□3. Small "manipulatives"

Students use about 40 manipulative pieces on the pages and with the games: tokens, small bingo chips, pennies, buttons, small shells, or anything that's the size of a penny. The "perfect-sized" manipulative fits on top of a single letter on the page. See-through manipulative pieces are perfect (plastic discs or flat, clear "marbles" used for decoration). For interest, multiple types of manipulatives can be used but aren't required.³



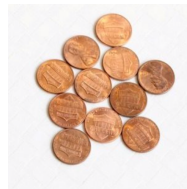
Clear Plastic Tokens

OR



Buttons

OR



Pennies

OR



Flat Glass Marbles⁴
(one side is flat)

Money-saving tip: The flat glass marbles can be found at most dollar stores. Also, stones can be used.

³ In True North Reading's development period, different types of manipulative pieces were "tested" by approximately 50 families for "staying time on an activity." (*How long does a child stay with the activity, based on the manipulative? Does the manipulative type matter?*) Though many types of manipulatives were used by the kids with enjoyment, by a large margin, the flat-side glass marbles (flat on one side) were found to have the longest "staying power" in an activity. When the kids were asked why they liked the flat marbles, the two answers that kept surfacing were, "I like the way it feels in my hand—it's heavy" and "I like that I can see through it to the Sound Picture." Using a weighted object also supports two important educational "tricks" for young children: 1) use weight, or a proprioceptive "push" on the hand, to trigger physical memory-making in learning (stimulate the physical push-pull memory area of the brain, as well as the visual, auditory, tactile, and vestibular centers), and 2) use all of the senses at once—touching, seeing, saying the sound, hearing the sound, and so on—which creates a stronger memory. Also, physically, a thin disc is more difficult to pick up than a thicker object. Flat glass marbles are thicker and, therefore, easier to handle by small children still working on dexterity and hand-eye coordination.

⁴ **WARNING:** When using any and all materials, including small objects (objects that can be swallowed; objects that can cut, poke, or otherwise harm any person or animal; and objects that can break and cause physical harm), children must be supervised at all times. Flat glass marbles are made of glass; therefore, they should not be shaken in their container and should be checked for chips or breaks BEFORE EACH AND EVERY USE. True North Reading does not assume any responsibility for a child's safety, for any other family member or outside individual's safety, or for an animal's safety with any of the materials listed on this document and cannot be held liable for any accidents or events that happen when using recommended materials while learning with the True North Reading program.



□ 4. Lower case letter stamps

Students use lower-case stamps for the Stamp Pages and activities. The stamp “handle” can be clear or solid. The “a” picture must be the circle and line: a.



Clear Stamps

OR



Solid Stamps

Money-saving tip: The stamp kits are usually less than \$15USD; however, you can make your own stamps out of potatoes. It’s a bit messier but fun!

□ 5. White Index Cards

Unlined (plain) white Index Cards are preferred; however, lined cards can be used. To make the rectangular Word Cards, the cards are cut in half *horizontally* (left to right). To create the square Sound Picture cards (“Lead Cards”), the cards are cut in half *vertically* (up and down). Younger students can use 4x6 cards (for smaller hands, larger objects can be easier to hold); older students can use 3x5 cards.



3x5 Index Cards

OR



4x6 Index Cards

Money-saving tip: If you have multiple children who will use the cards, use clear “Contact Paper” (plastic liner used to line drawers, clear, with one side sticky) to cover the card. Place the already-made cards on a sheet of clear Contact Paper. Cover the top with another sheet. Press out the bubbles. Cut between the cards, leaving about a half centimeter around the edge of the card to make a seal. If you want the ability to mark the card over and over with its Sound Picture marking (practice “finding and marking”), do not put the Sound Picture marking on the card before covering. Then, the child can use a wipe-off marker to mark the Sound Picture.

□ 6. Child-sized scissors (and an optional glue stick)

Index cards are cut in half horizontally to make Word Cards. The words on the Word Label pages can also be cut apart and glued onto Word Cards with a glue stick. If you’re using the Word Labels with sticky-backed Shipping Labels (printing the pages so that the words become already-prepared stickers), the glue stick won’t be needed. And because we’re working on reading (not cutting), if a child struggles with cutting, parents can cut the pages.



Child-Sized Scissors



(Optional Glue Stick)

□7. Markers: Washable markers and a yellow highlighter

The Sound Pictures ck, qu, and s-buzz are marked on the Word Cards with “regular” washable markers. Because a larger tip is more “forgiving” (doesn’t show errors as much in tracing and writing), a smaller child will use the thicker the marker with more success. The yellow highlighter marker is used to color over Sound Pictures (letters and letter combinations) in certain activities.



Washable Markers

AND



Yellow Highlighter

□8. “Popsicle” craft sticks

“Popsicle” craft sticks are used in many hands-on games.



“Popsicle” or Craft Sticks

Money-saving tip: Craft sticks come in different sizes, with different costs. A smaller stick with less cost also works. However, for younger students (with smaller, less dexterous hands), larger sticks most often work better. For older students, toothpicks can be used in place of Popsicle sticks for the *Capture the Box* game.

□ 9. Dice

Dice are used in many hands-on games.



Dice

Money-saving tip: Any dice from any game that you already have will do!

□ 10. Blank paper

Blank paper is used for activities and games.



Blank Paper

□ 11. A blank notebook

A blank notebook is used for activities and games. Because it can lay flat while a child works on a page, a spiral bound notebook with wire rings work best. Spiral-bound sketchpads work well and can be found at most craft stores, as well as online.



Blank Notebook

Money-saving tip: Check dollar stores and the art supply sections at discount craft stores. Some of the best notebooks with most durable covers (but still at a reasonable cost) are the drawing books/sketch books found at discount craft stores.



□ 12. Book rings

Word Cards and Sound Picture Cards are kept on book rings. Parents punch a hole in the corner or end of the card, and the cards are slipped onto the ring so that the cards are easily kept together.



Book Rings

Money-saving tip: Buy in bulk online. Your student will use the rings in every single level of True North Reading.

□ 13. A single-hole puncher

A single-hole puncher is used to punch holes in the corner (or end) of the Word Cards and Sound Picture Cards (“Lead Cards”). The cards are slipped onto the ring so that the cards are easily kept together.



Single-Hole Puncher

Optional

Here are some helps that aren’t required but can be used for additional hands-on learning. Again, the following supplies are all optional. Aside from the Wikki Stix, every other optional supply can be made from materials around the home.

□ 1. Small Wooden Cubes

Cutout patterns are provided, to make paper cubes for game playing. If you’d like a more durable game piece, wooden cubes can be used. Wooden cubes are fairly inexpensive and can be found at craft stores or online.



Small Wooden Cubes

Money-saving tip: Most craft stores carry cubes small bags for less than \$3 USD. Cubes can also be found in different sizes and in “tubs of cubes” online.



□2. “Wikki Stix”

“Wikki Stix” are colorful wax-covered “sticks” that bend. As shown in the videos, students can make 3-D, hands-on Sound Picture cards with Wikki Stix.



Wikki Stix

Money-saving tip: Off-brands exist for less cost. The off-brand may not be as sticky, but it can work.

□3. “Shipping Labels,” to print words for the Word Cards

Word Labels are the lists of words provided for you, to use with the games. The words on the Word Labels are in the exact size and placement for printing on sticky-backed Shipping Labels that you can buy at an office supply store or online. Parents can make Word Cards three ways: 1) write the listed words onto Word Cards, 2) print the Word Label pages on regular paper, cut out the words, and have the child glue the words onto the Word Cards, or 3) print the words on the store-bought Shipping Labels, peel the labels off for each word, and place the word(s) onto the Word Cards.



“Shipping Labels”

Money-saving tip: Labels can often be found in online discount supply stores for less cost.

□4. Wooden circle “coins”

Instead of taping a drawn letter to a quarter in the *Flip a Coin Game*, you can use wooden circle “coins.”



Wooden Circle “Coins”



□5. Blank playing cards

The Word Cards (that are made from cutting Index Cards horizontally) can be used for any of the card games. However, some families like to use “real” playing cards (blank, pre-made cards in the shape and size of store-bought playing cards).



Blank Playing Cards

Money-saving tip: Blank playing cards can be made from the thinner white and gray cardboard often found in men’s shirts and linens (as supports for the product’s display).

□6. Blank Bingo Cards

The program shows parents and students how to make your own Bingo cards. And many bingo games are already made for you. However, some families like to use “real” bingo cards (blank, pre-made cards) and make their own games (in addition to what’s provided).



Bingo Cards

Money-saving tip: To make the cards last, Bingo cards can be covered with clear Contact Paper, as well.



Your Supplies List

- Small wipe-off dry-erase board
- Wipe-off markers (2): one black and one of any other light color
- Small "manipulatives": tokens, buttons, pennies, or flat-bottomed marbles
- Lower case letter stamps
- White Index Cards
- Child-sized scissors
- (Optional glue stick)
- Washable markers
- Yellow highlighter
- "Popsicle" craft sticks
- Dice
- Blank paper
- Blank notebook
- Book rings
- Single-hole puncher

"Optional" Supplies List

- Small wooden cubes
- Wikki Stix
- Shipping Labels
- Wooden circle "coins"
- Blank playing cards
- Blank Bingo cards

Shopping Online

For direct links to supplies fitting the descriptions below, visit the True North Reading "Resources" page at <https://truenorthreading.com/resources/>.