

Spider Spelling

LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE LEVEL
KINDERGARTEN – FIRST

COMPLETION TIME

• 45 minutes

OBJECTIVES

Students learn:

- A fun way to spell three letter rhyming words
- How to spell six (or fewer) letter words (by using all of the spider legs)
- Listening and following step by step instructions

STANDARDS

- Use conventional spelling for words with common spelling patterns and for frequently occurring irregular words
- Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs
- Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions

LESSON INTRODUCTION

- Explain to students that there are three ways to learn to spell a word: By sight-reading it, by sounding out the letters in the word, and by memorizing it. These spider spellers combine the fun of using chalk on chalkboard paper with the satisfaction of learning to spell.

MATERIALS

FOR STUDENT:
(one per student unless otherwise noted)

- FloraCraft® Make It: Fun® Foam Egg, 1 7/8" x 2 1/2"
- Tinsel chenille stems, 12" length, one of each: Green, blue, gold and silver
- Two 15mm wiggle eyes
- Cardstock, white, 2" x 3"
- White chalk
- Six 1 1/2" circles of chalkboard paper (See FOR TEACHER)
- White tacky craft glue
- Washable black fine line felt tip marker
- Paper plate
- Large Ziploc bag



FOR TEACHER:

- FloraCraft® Design It:® Wire Cutter
- Chalkboard paper (sheet or roll) (each student needs approx. 3" x 5")
- 1 1/2" diameter circle punch
- Acrylic paint, black (OR black spray paint)
- Paintbrush, approx. 1" wide, chisel
- Toothpicks (one per egg)
- Scrap of sheet foam (to hold eggs while drying)
- Glue gun (for teacher only) or thick white tacky glue
- Craft knife
- Paper cutter or scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Paper towels
- Water

TEACHER PREPARATION

Note: Read through all the instructions first and check out the TIPS! Have a glue gun plugged in and ready to use (ideally set on low temperature) but out of student reach. This can give you immediate adhesion when you're in a hurry to help students. Be sure that the glue has cooled before returning the projects to students (takes a minute or so.) It is also recommended that you make one project first, before preparing the materials for any others, since knowing how the parts fit, might affect how you prepare the rest of them. Also, suggest that you show your finished project sample only when you want to explain something, or students tend to work ahead by seeing and copying.

[1] Insert a toothpick into the small end of a foam egg and paint it with black acrylic paint. Set the end of the toothpick into a scrap of foam to dry. Repeat for all students.

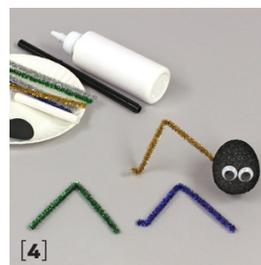
Alternative: In a well-ventilated, newspaper-covered area (inside a large box) spray eggs with black spray paint.

[2] Use a ruler and wire cutter to measure and cut in half the green, blue, gold and silver tinsel stems, to create eight 6" lengths. Repeat for all students.

[3] Use the 1 1/2" paper punch to punch out six circles from chalkboard paper. Use your fingernail or a craft knife blade to help you peel back about

1/4" along the edge of each circle. Crease the release paper so that it doesn't flip back again. This gives the student a place to insert the tinsel stems. Repeat for all students.

[4] Use a paper cutter or scissors to cut a 2" x 3" piece of cardstock for each student and write their name on the back in pencil. Use a glue gun to glue two wiggle eyes to the large end of each student's egg. Prepare the work area by setting an egg with eyes, six chalkboard paper circles, chalk, cardstock, marker, and two of each of four colors of eight tinsel stems on a paper plate at each student's place. Beside the plate, set a glue bottle.

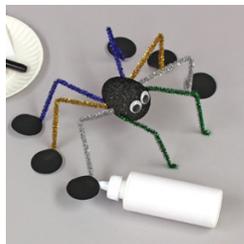


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INSTRUCTIONS

[1] Explain that the feet of the spider are circles of chalkboard paper and that students should NOT remove the release paper backing. (It is suggested that you let students use their chalk to write on a circle, since it will be difficult for them to wait to see if it works.) Explain that the chenille stems need to remain straight for now.



[4] Demonstrate and have students wrap the bottom of one front leg around the chalk to hold it. Using their marker, have them write, "I can spell" on the vertically positioned cardstock piece. Pinch the end of the other leg onto the sign. (If desired, have students glue the sign in place.)



[5] Have students put their spider, chalk and "I can spell" sign into a large bag to keep everything together, with the bag left open for drying. Explain that after the circles have dried, they will be able to write on their spiders.



[2] Demonstrate and have students fold one tinsel stem in half (like an upside-down V). Then pinch and bend up just a little (1/4") on the end to be inserted into a circle, later. (The reason this shouldn't be more than 1/4" is that it makes the chalkboard circle lumpy when writing, so it shouldn't go into the circle area very far.) Have them bend all eight tinsel stems.

Demonstrate how to turn their egg bodies sideways in order to insert the legs, in a row, about 1/4" apart. Have them hold the non-bent end of the tinsel stem, close to the end and insert it into the foam egg. Repeat on the other side of the egg.



[3] Demonstrate and have students attach the folded back area of one chalkboard circle to the end of a tinsel stem leg, pinching the folded release paper onto the leg end. (This will remove the crease) Then, have them squeeze a dot of glue under the release paper and press back down, securing the tinsel stem between the chalkboard layer and the release paper.

MODIFICATIONS

To simplify project:

- Have the chalkboard circles already glued (with glue gun) onto the ends of the tinsel stems.
- Type "I can spell" on the computer, print on heavier weight paper, and cut them apart with the paper cutter.

To expand project:

- Add more details to the spider, such as a nose (brad) and a mouth (chenille stem).
- For Halloween, paint an artificial pumpkin with chalkboard paint and set the spiders on and all around it. (Students can spell on the pumpkin, too.)

For multiple ages:

- Younger and older students can work side-by-side with older students doing the gluing while the younger students bend the tinsel stems and insert the legs.
- Older students can use chalkboard paper to cover the front of a clipboard and attach the younger student's spider to the top.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- Display a row of spiders hanging from the ceiling, connected by each other's legs.
- Use the spiders as "posters" by displaying the names of students responsible for various classroom tasks on the chalkboard circles.
- Make a giant spider using a large foam egg, jumbo (larger diameter and longer) chenille stems (found in specialty toy stores) and sidewalk chalk.
- These also make a good project to take home and practice spelling there.



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TIPS

- If using a roll of chalkboard paper, cut off what you'll need and roll it in the opposite direction. Secure it with a rubber band for an hour or so, to uncurl it.
- When using a punch, turn it over to allow you to see where you're placing the punch on the paper. This lets you conserve paper by making circles very close together, and not accidentally punching off the edge of the paper because you can't see where it's punching.
- A punch has a limited reach and cannot get into the center of a sheet of paper. Punch circles all around the outside. Then, use scissors to trim off the excess paper and punch all around the outside again. Continue working your way to the center.
- Have extras of chalkboard circles and tinsel stems.
- Use a glue gun to attach any feet that won't stick.
- Use a slightly damp paper towel to clean the chalkboard circles, as needed.

REFERENCES

1st Grade Reading Skill Builders by Sylvan Learning
 Success with Sight Words by Sylvan Learning
 Scripps National Spelling Bee Study Words: https://www.powayusd.com/pusdbmms/pdf/2013_Gr1.8combined_list.pdf
 Any Word Spelling Practice Series from Spelling-Words-Well.com