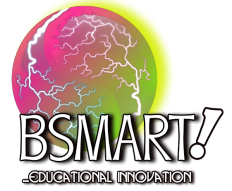




# Letter Reversals - b and d



Reversing letters means your child writes certain letters (or numbers) backwards or upside down. This is sometimes referred to as “mirror writing.” It’s different from transposing letters, which means switching the order of letters.

The most common letter reversal is b and d, when the child writes a b for a d or vice versa. Another common reversal is p and q. An example of an upside-down reversal is m for w.

The majority of kids outgrow reversing as they become better readers and more proficient at writing. Reversing letters is normal and fairly common up until the age of 7. The letters b, d, p and q are really all the same letter. They’re just flipped and turned. As adults and experienced readers, we’ve learned that their position makes a big difference.

If the problem persists, it could have two causes:

## 1. **Visual Processing** (inability to interpret position in space).

Position in space is the ability to perceive an object’s position in space relative to oneself and the direction in which it is turned. We sometimes call this directionality - down, up, in front of, behind, between, left and right. With b and d letter reversals the directions of left and right are very important.

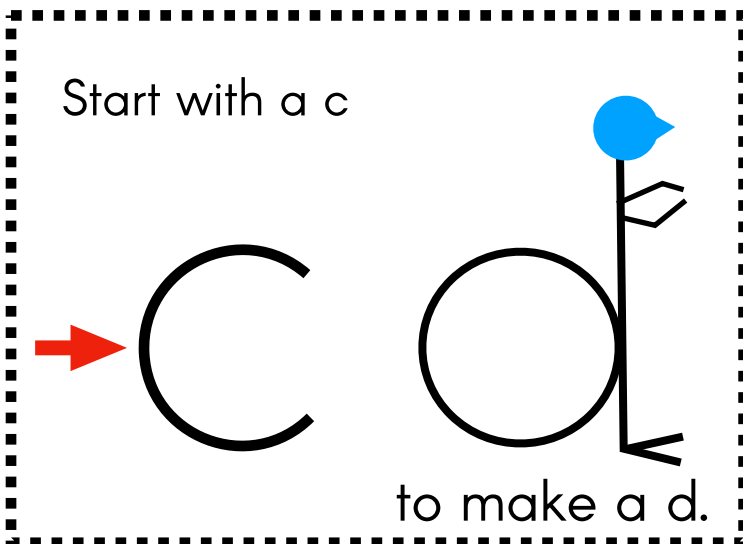
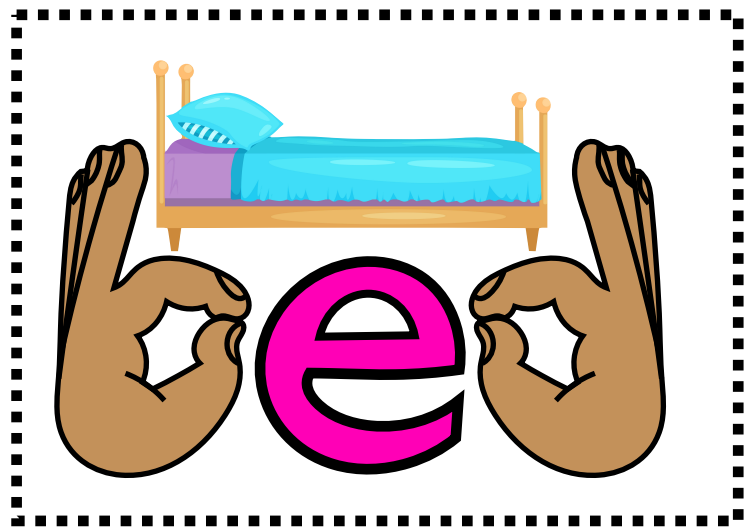
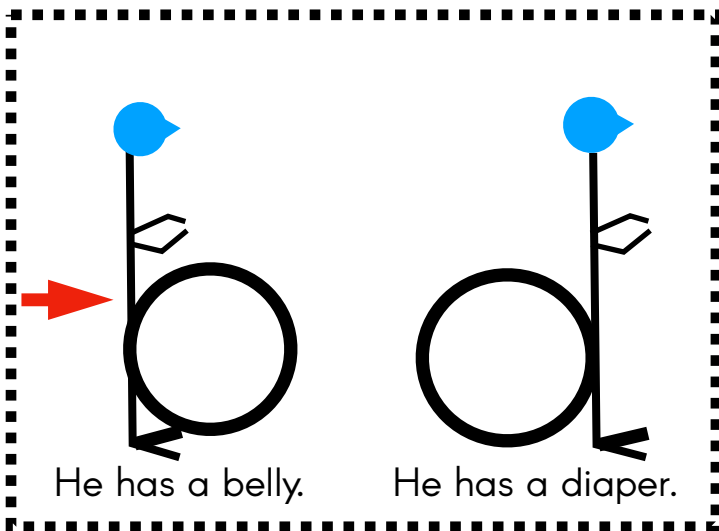
Children who have delays in correctly distinguishing between left and right will have difficulty interpreting the letter b from the letter d as the only difference between the two letters is the position of the straight line.

## 2. **Auditory Processing**

The inability to discriminate between the two sounds, /buh/ and /duh/.

At BSMART, we use multi sensory approaches to engage more than one sense when assisting children with learning. We engage children in rainbow tracing, water painting, sky writing, play dough, build-a-letters, shaving cream, glow in the dark paint, black light, and many other multi sensory activities to help.

Here are some images that can be used to assist.





Below, are examples of a variety of scanning posters that I created especially for young students.

They can be printed out and placed on any vertical surface.

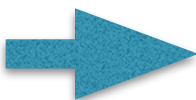
The student is to place their pointy finger on the gray dot and slide slowly across on the dotted line. Each time they travel under a letter, they are to say either bat and ball b or doggy and the leash d.

They can also complete the chart first with one eye covered, then the other, and the last time without any eye coverage.

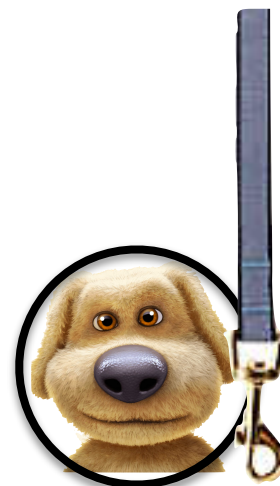
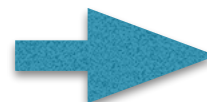
In addition to learning bs and ds, doing it like this also strengthens their visual skills, specifically scanning/tracking abilities.

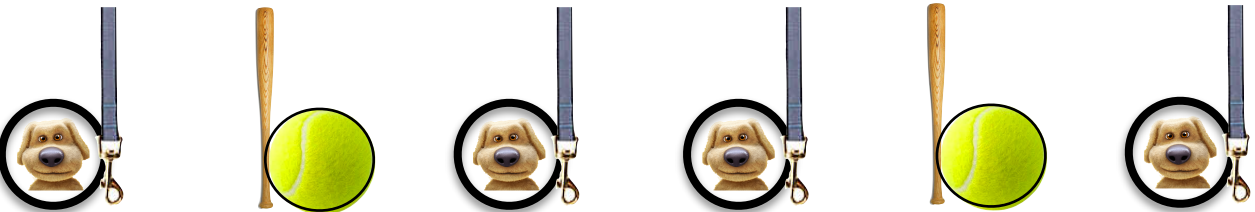
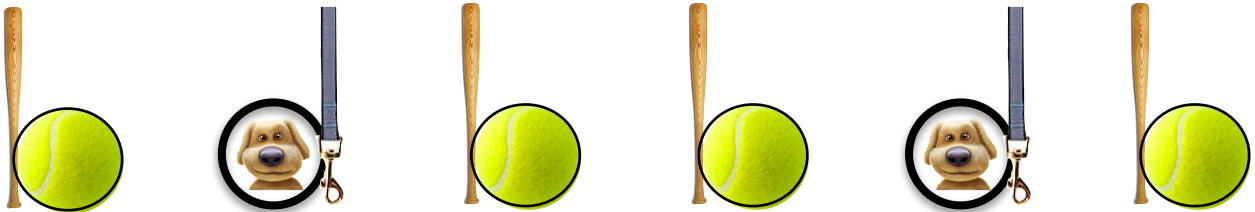
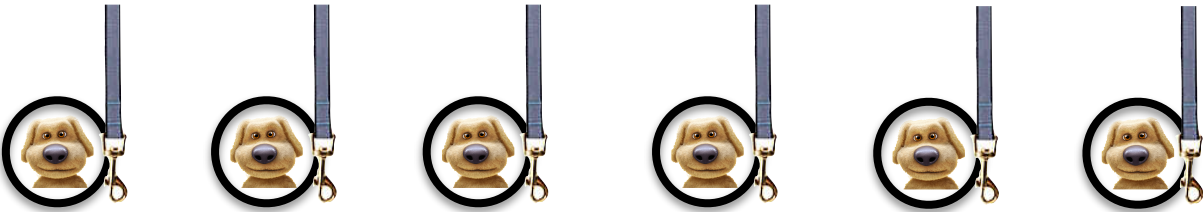
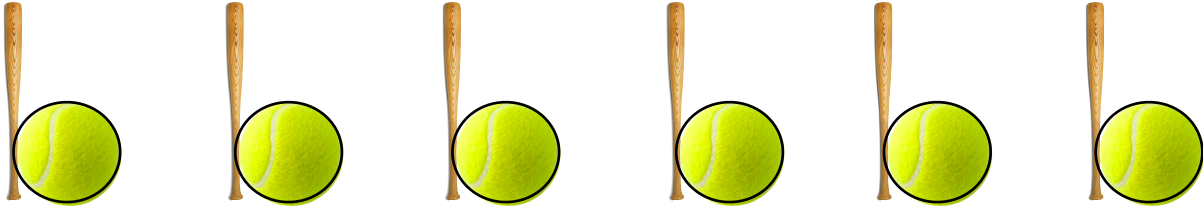
There are many sets of these posters that progress in difficulty level.

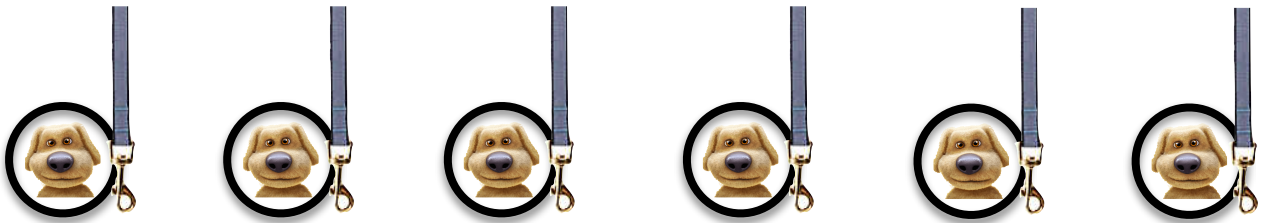
**bat and ball b**



**doggy and the leash d**














b b  d d d b d





 d d d b b d b



 o   o   o   o



 d  o b d b d d




d d b b d b d







Under the **b**s and over the **d**s



**b** **b**  **d** **d** **d**

 **b** **b**  **b** **b**

**b** **d** **b** **d** **b** **d**

**d** **b** **d** **b** **d** **b**