

Conducting the Class

Ask the children these questions:

“What do you see in the picture?” (A door.)

“What is a door used for?” (To make a way to get into a building or room, to keep out the weather, or to keep out noise.)

“What is one thing you need to remember when you open or close a door?” (Close it quietly; do not slam it.)

Following the above exercise, **have the children trace over the dotted letter *d* in the picture** to complete the word *door*.

The children should **find the letter *d* in the alphabet**. Then place the two letters *d* and *b* **on the blackboard**. Help them **compare the two letters**. Both *d* and *b* contain down lines that are two spaces tall. Both contain small circles. The difference between the two letters is that the circles are on opposite sides of the down lines. The circle is on the forward side for the letter *b* and on the backward side for the letter *d*.

Now **looking more specifically at the letter *d***, explain to the children how it is made. The **circle stroke** is formed **first**, in the normal way. The **down line** is drawn so as to **join the circle stroke** along the right side.

After some **blackboard practice**, have the children **proceed with the lesson** according to the directions.

Further Helps for the Teacher

In order to **help your children distinguish between the letters *d* and *b***, you may want to give them a **short quiz** on the blackboard. Tell them to write down each letter as they hear it. Give out the letters in such a manner that the children do not know which one is coming next. By doing this you will strengthen the letter forms in the minds of all the children and will discover any problems your children may have in differentiating between these two letters.

The joining of strokes will again require special attention. Although *d* is made very much like *a*, the extra length at the top of the *d* makes it difficult to aim accurately from the top line to the right side of the circle. **The tendency will be to start from such a point that the line needs to slant in order to join the circle stroke correctly.** Call this to the children’s attention if they have a problem with it. To overcome it will simply take practice.