

Perfecting Patterns with Zara the Zebra

Learning objective: To practise handwriting by forming lower-case letters correctly and understanding how to join them to ascenders and descenders.

Zara the Zebra loves patterns! In handwriting, every letter is a pattern. Look at the letter families below. Trace the patterns carefully, then practise writing the words. Remember to start your letters on the line, keep your ascenders (like l, h, t) tall, and let your descenders (like g, j, y) hang below the line.

Word bank: jump · tall · zebra · bright · happy

1. 1. Zara loves to 'jump'. Trace the word 'jump' three times. Make sure the 'j' goes below the line and the 'p' touches the line below. (2 marks)

2. 2. Look at the word 'tall'. The letters 't', 'a', 'l', 'l' are all tall letters. Practise writing 'tall' two times, ensuring your 'l's reach the top of the line. (2 marks)

3. 3. Write the word 'zebra' carefully. Ensure the 'z' is sharp and the 'b' is a tall ascender. (2 marks)

4. 4. Write the word 'bright'. Which letter in this word is a descender? Write the descender letter here. (2 marks)

5. 5. Practise your best handwriting by writing the sentence: 'The happy zebra jumps.' Remember your finger spaces! (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Zara the Zebra standing in a field of tall grass. Try to include some striped patterns on her coat and some tall flowers in the background.



Extension challenge: Choose two of your favourite words from the word bank and write a short, funny sentence using both of them. Check that all your letters are sitting correctly on the line!