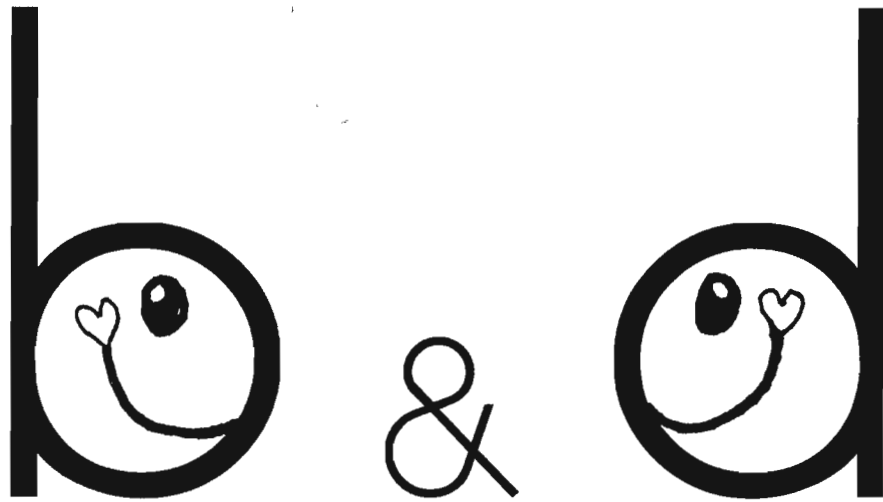


# Taking the Confusion Out of



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## Taking the Confusion Out of **b** and **d**



I tried the “bed” concept and making posters to show my students a pictorial view of how they could keep these lowercase “monsters” straight. I explained to them that the **b** was at the head of the bed and that the **d** came at the end of the bed just like in the word **end**.

I further explained that **b** came before **d** in the alphabet as another way to remember the “bed” idea.

We also read from left to right so **b** looks right into **d**’s eye and I represented this in a poster as well. The light bulb went on for some of my students.

It was time for another picture. Bunny begins with **b** and I could draw the head of a bunny inside that letter. Dog begins with a **d** and I could draw the head of a dog inside that letter. That helped a few more.

My students wouldn’t always have the “crutch” of looking at a poster, but they would always have their hands with them. I told them to make a fist and put their pointer finger up on each one. They could then look at their hand facing them or from the side. Either way they viewed it, their left hand would look like a **b** and their right hand would look like a **d**. I demonstrated this and made posters, reminding them once again that **b** came first and that we read from LEFT to RIGHT. More light bulbs flickered.

One day when I was drawing faces on my letters I noticed that you could turn a lowercase **b** into an uppercase **B** by simply adding a loop to the top. Wahla! My most successful way for students to avoid confusing a **b** and **d** was born.

**Here's what I do:** I write uppercase and lowercase B's and D's on the board and tell my students this scenario:

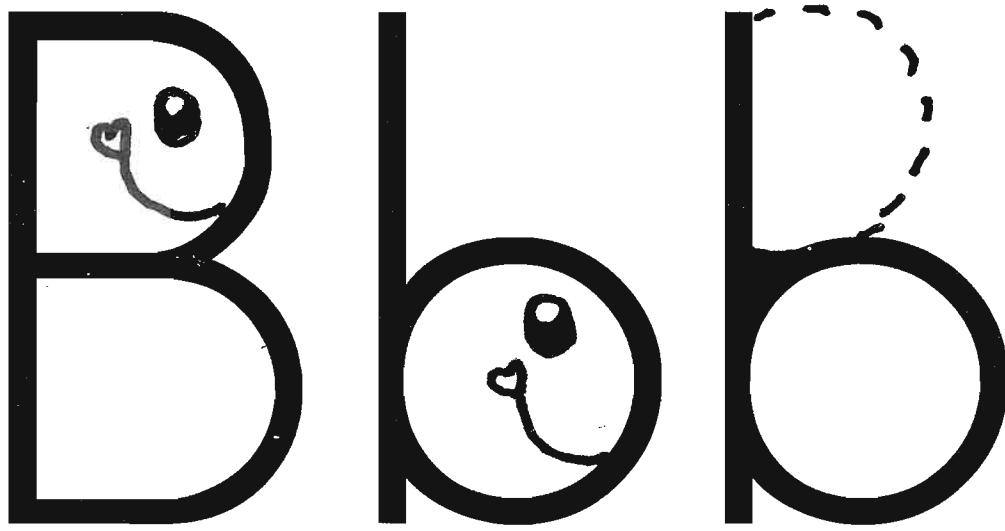
*"This is baby **b**; also known as lowercase **b**. This is Big B; also known as uppercase B. Baby **b** wants to grow up to be just like Big B. He can do this by drawing one little loop on the top. (I draw the loop and say "Tadah!" baby **b** is now a Big B!) I write a lowercase **d** next to another lowercase **b**. This is dinky **d**; also known as lowercase **d**. He has snuck over to Big B's house pretending to be baby **b**. He is a spy! He thinks he can trick Big B. How can we prove to Big B that he is a spy? Yes! We can draw a loop on him. Will dinky **d** grow up to look like Big B? No!"* I draw a loop on the back of dinky **d**. He does NOT look like Big B. I announce: *What do we do with spies? We zap them with an X. Bye Spy!"* And we zap dinky **d** with an x.

Then I introduce Upper and lowercase D. This is that scenario:  
*"This is Daddy D; also known as uppercase D. This is dinky **d** his son; also known as lowercase **d**. Daddy D says: "Look at me son!" dinky **d** looks at his Daddy and they smile at each other. Uh-oh. Here comes Baby **b**. He's the spy now! He wants to get even with dinky **d** and try to trick his Dad. When his Dad says, "Look at me son." Baby **b** can't turn around because he's a **b**, so all he can do is face forward and show him his butt! Oh my goodness. That makes Daddy D mad. He quickly figures out that this could not be his son! **b** is for **b**utt, **b** is for **b**aby **b**, not for his **d**arling dinky **d**. What do we do with spies? Zap them with an X. Bye Spy!"*

My Y5's enjoy these stories. This has been so successful that I start with this concept first. A gentle reminder to simply trace a loop to see if the **d** can turn into a B is all it takes. I have the other posters up too as extra reminders.

I hope these things will have your little ones' light bulbs turning on and shining brightly! Enjoy!

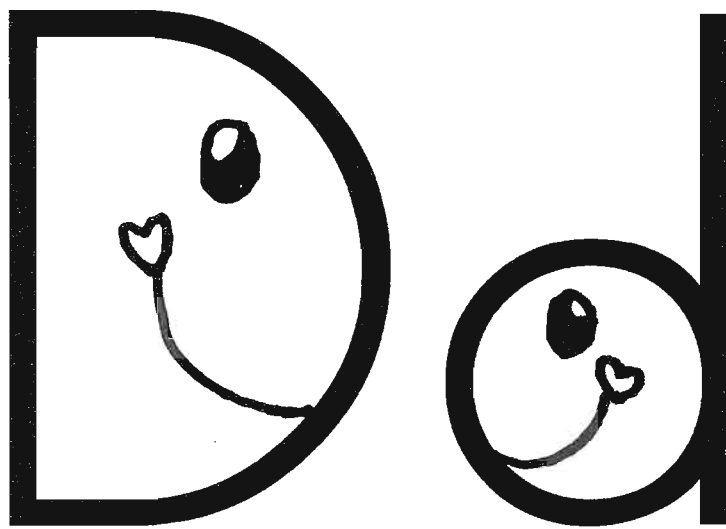




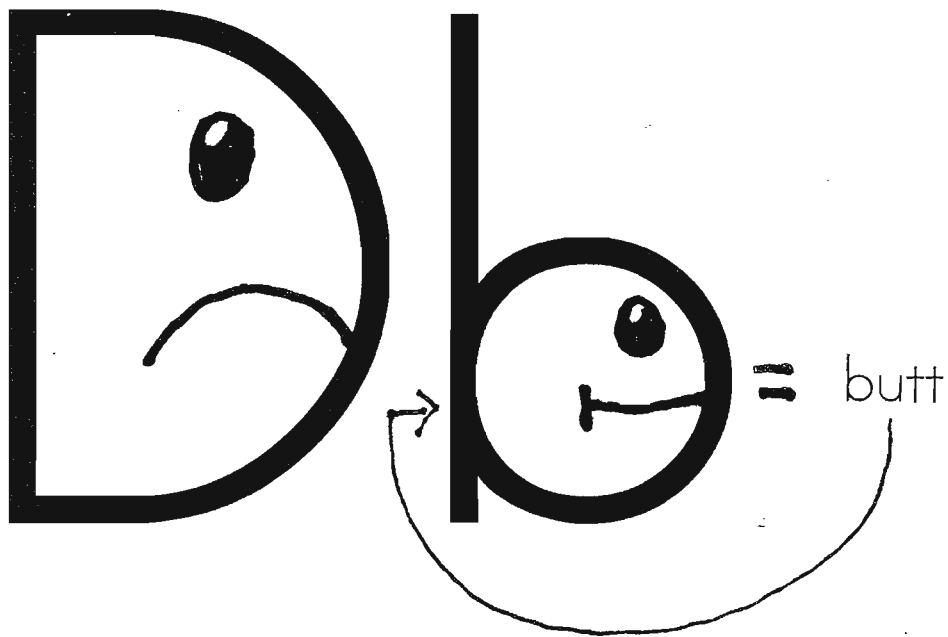
Baby b will grow up to look like Big B.



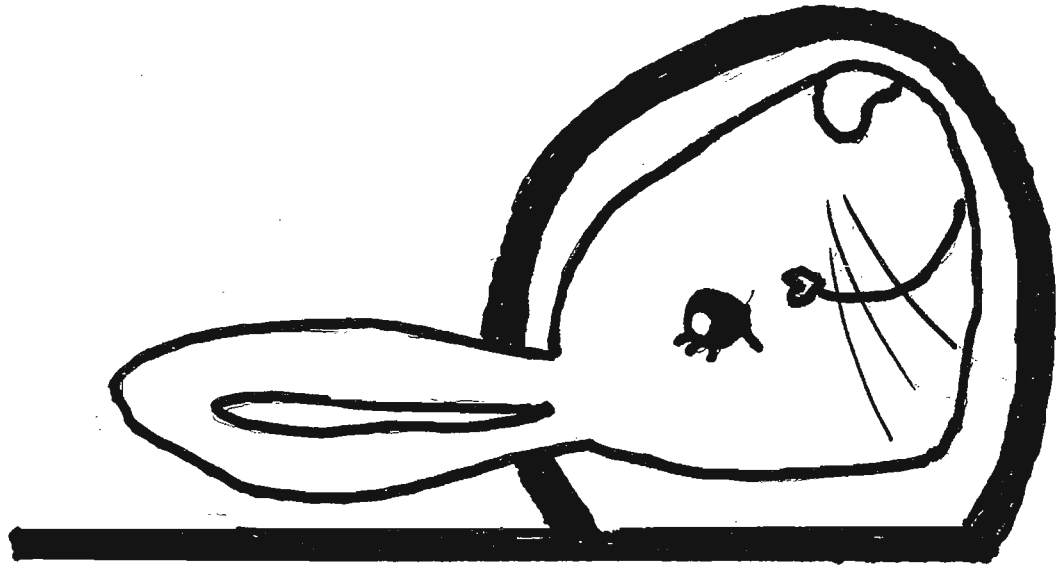
A dinky d will NOT!



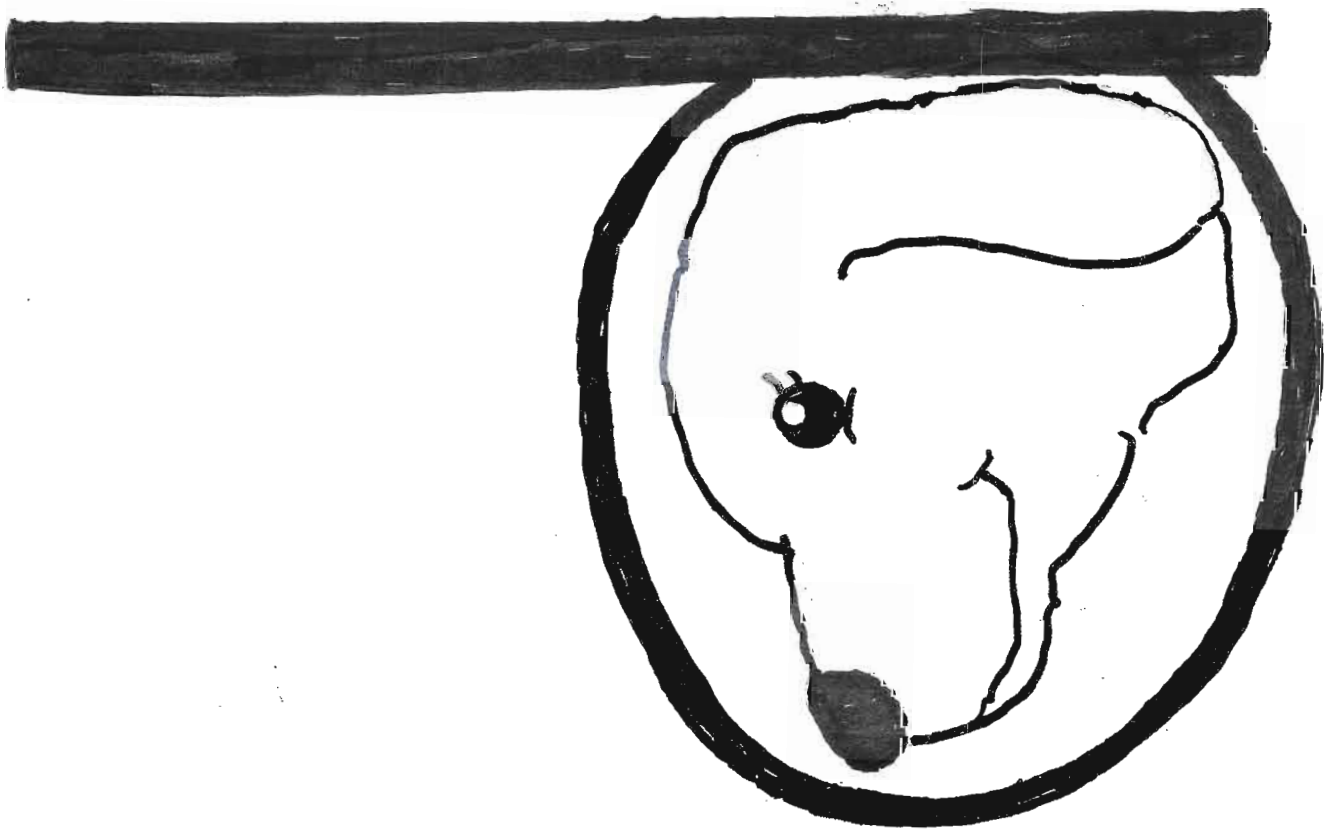
= Looking at Daddy D



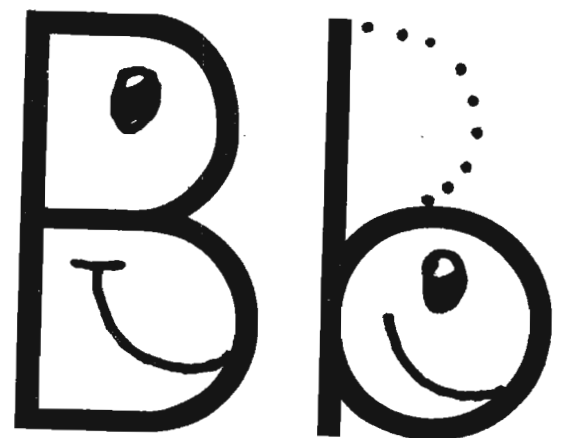
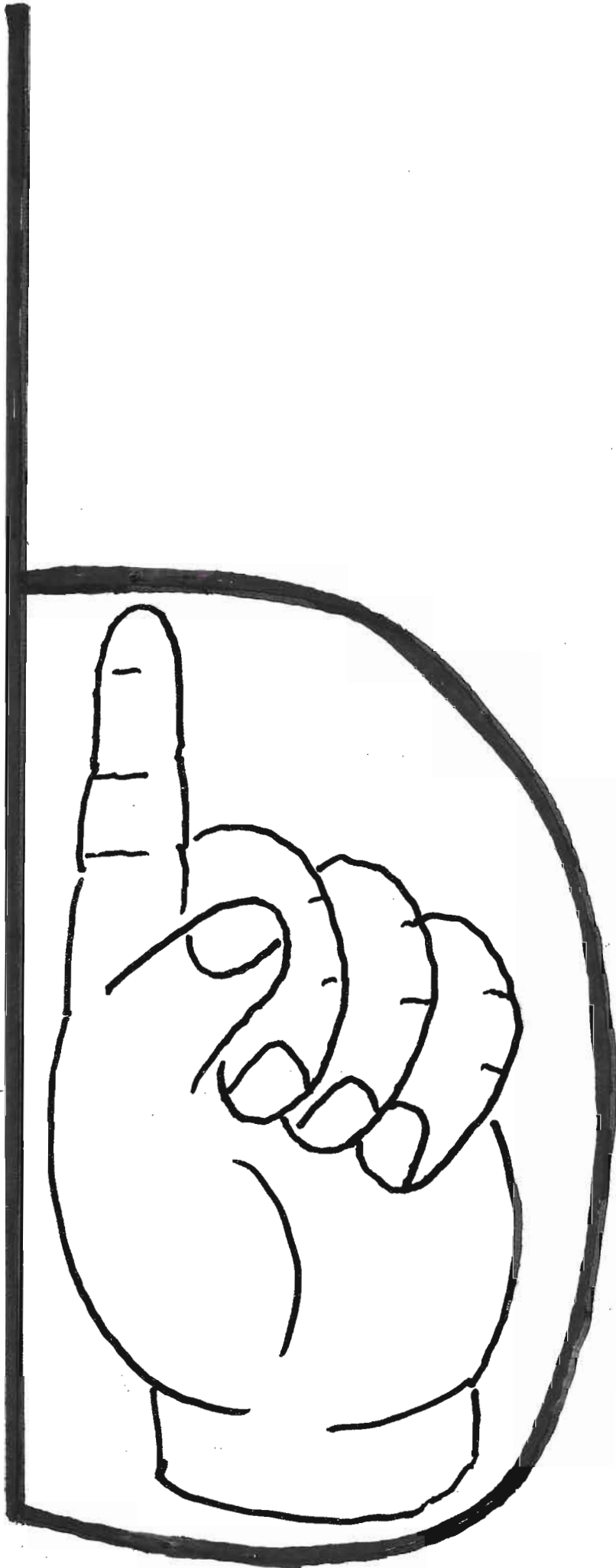
= butt



unny

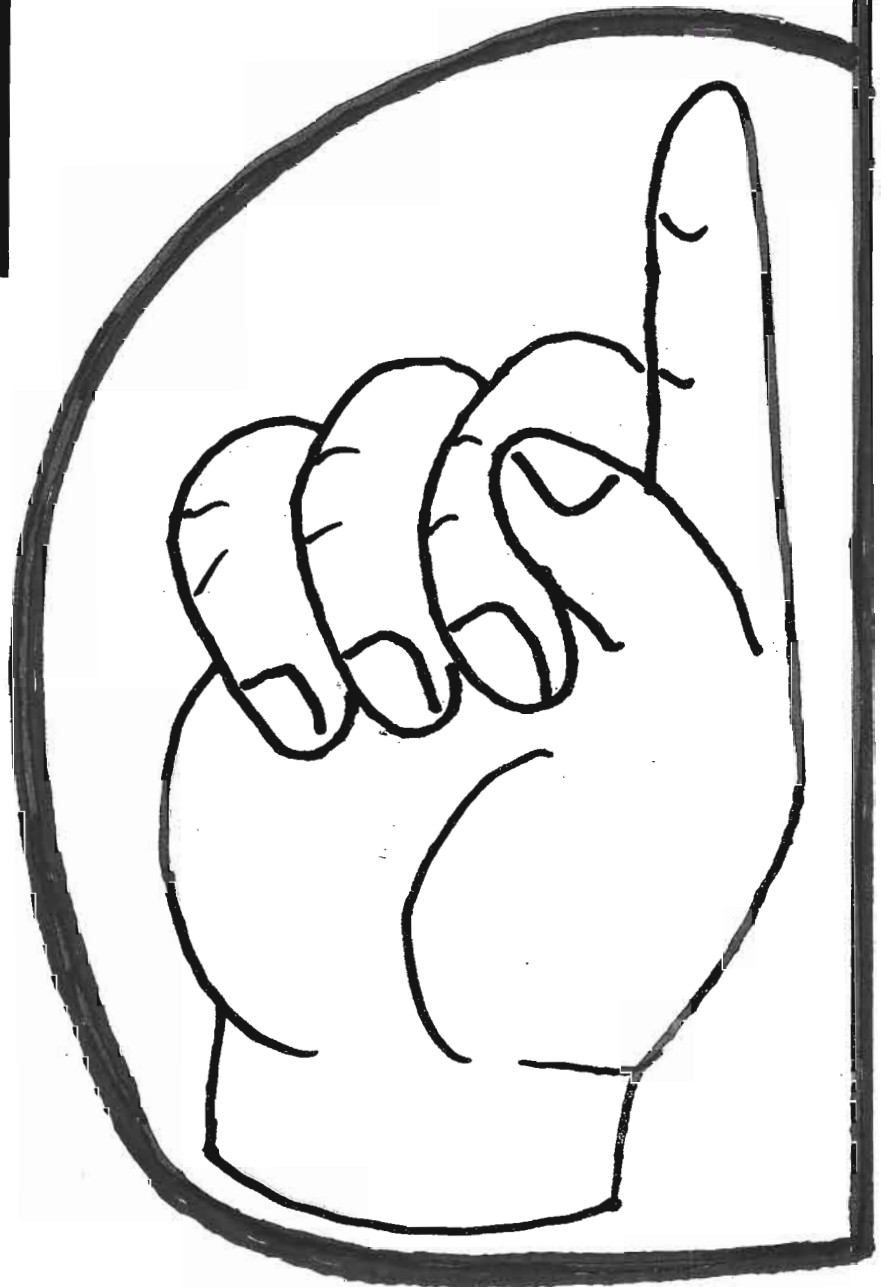


oo



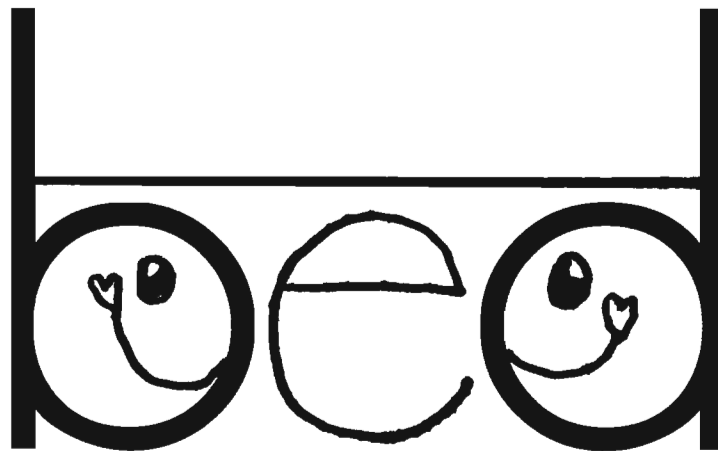


D d



Tricks to remember when looking at the bed posters:

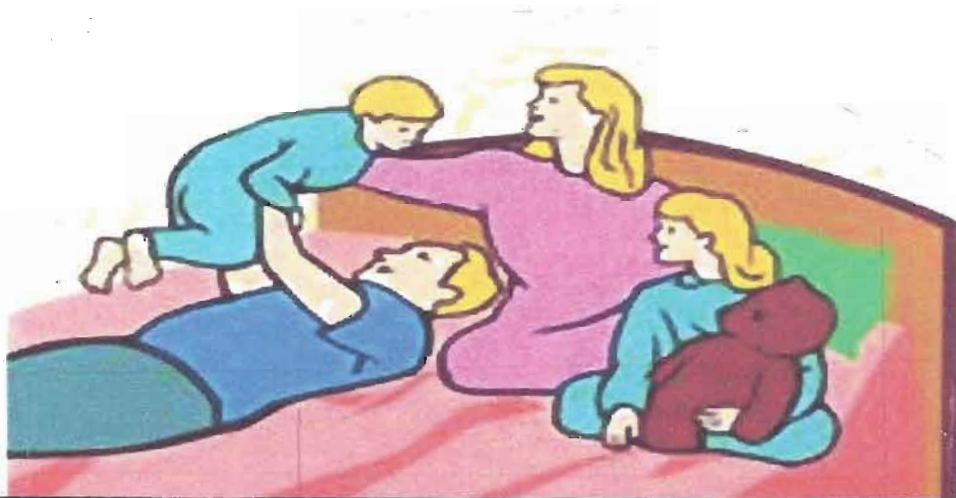
- b is at the head of the bed.
- d is at the end of the bed.
- b comes before d in the alphabet.
- We read left to right so b looks “right” into d’s eye!







bed

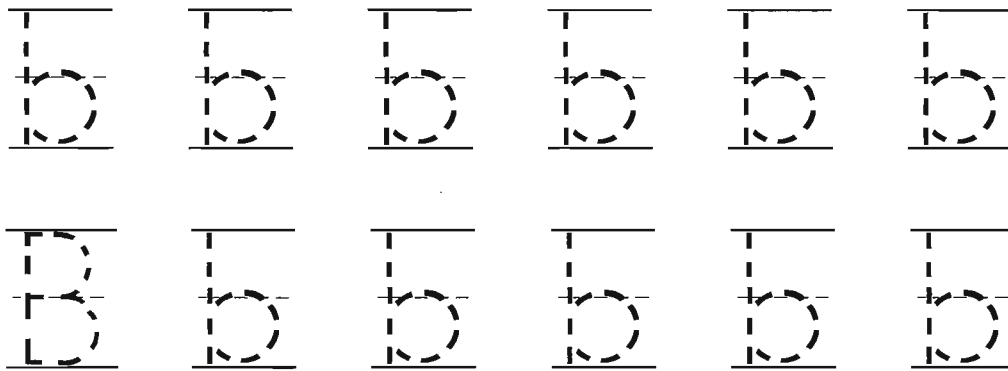


bed

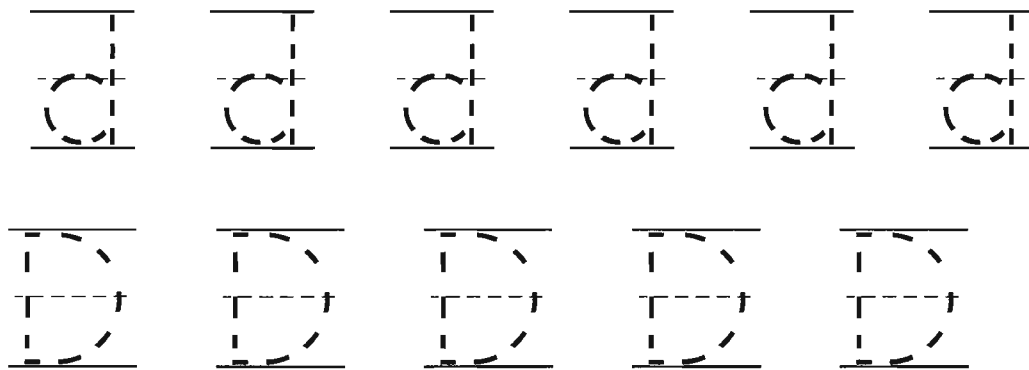




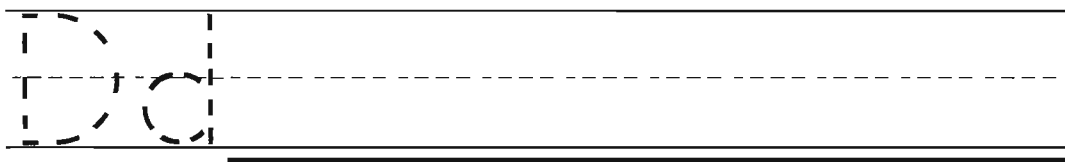
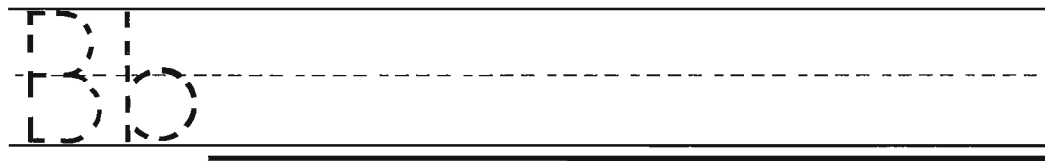
Trace the baby lowercase b's on the first line.  
Turn the baby b's on the second line into Big uppercase B's

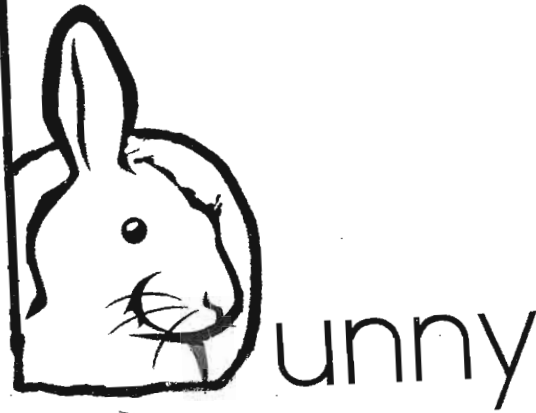


Trace the lowercase d's on the first line and the uppercase D's on the second line.

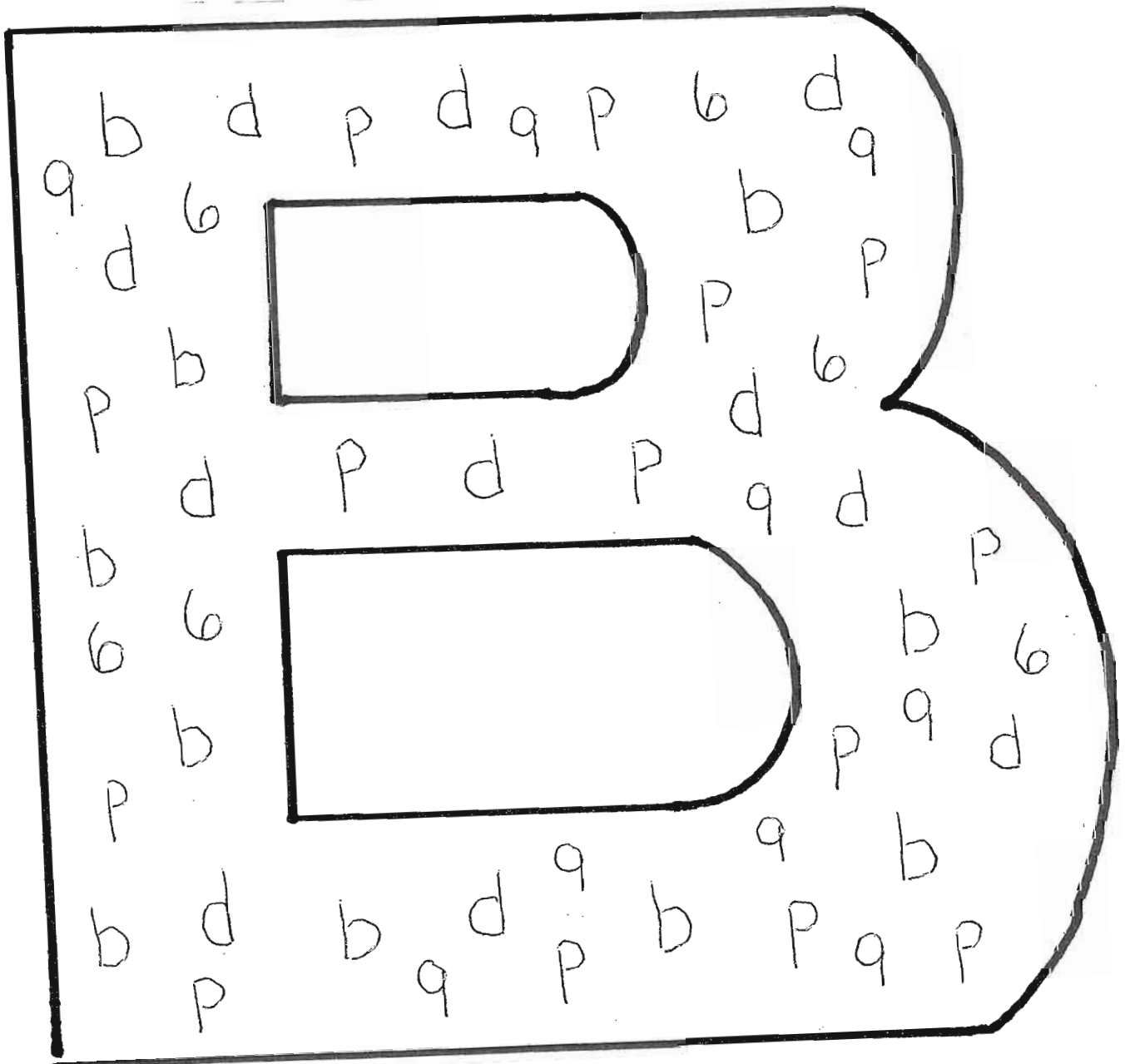


Write your own upper and lowercase B's on the 1<sup>st</sup> line and your own upper and lowercase D's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line.





starts with **b**. Find all of the lowercase **b**'s inside the uppercase **B**. There are 10. CIRCLE them. Don't let the other letters & numbers trick you. They are spies!

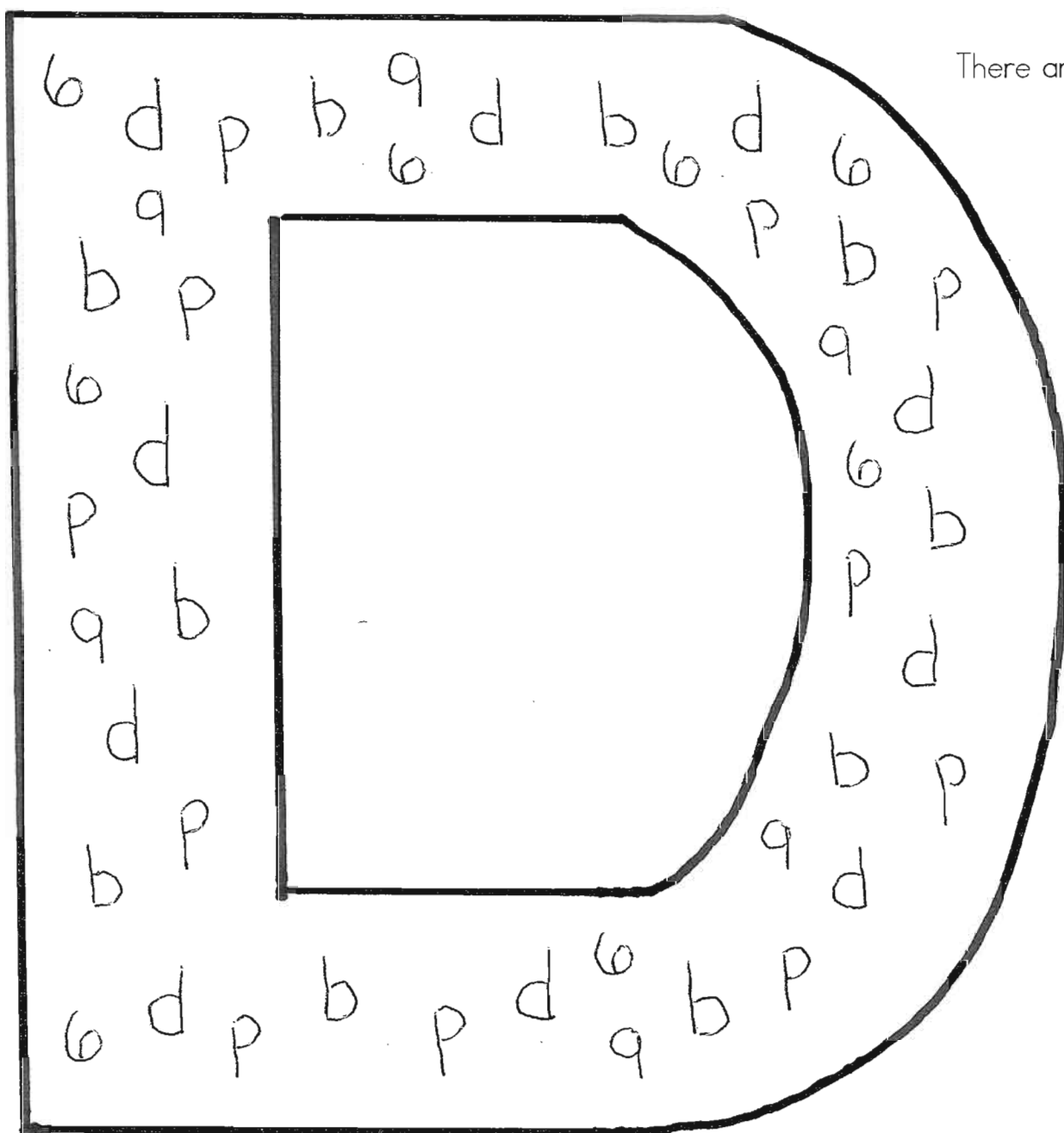


Dd



starts with d, find all of the lowercase d's inside the uppercase D. (CIRCLE) them. Don't let the other letters trick you. They are spies!

Numbers 6 and 9 also snuck in to confuse you!



There are 10.