

---

## 4 Blocks Literacy Framework

# Word Wall Cheers

---

Four Blocks is a multimethod, multilevel literacy framework developed by Pat Cunningham and Dottie Hall of Wake Forest University and utilized by thousands elementary classrooms.

---

From:

[http://www.k111.k12.il.us/lafayette/fourblocks/word\\_wall\\_chants.htm](http://www.k111.k12.il.us/lafayette/fourblocks/word_wall_chants.htm)

*Note from Marian Miller (K Curriculum Specialist) The “Cheers” below may be useful management and learning tools, beyond Word Wall activities.*

### Movie Star Kisses

- Put hands to your mouth
- Throw each letter a kiss, like Marilyn Monroe at the Oscars.

### Opera

- Sing the letters in opera fashion

### Fly Like a Bird

- Arms flapping up and down

## Chicken

- Arms folded up to make wings and head moving forward and back.

## Nose

- Hold your nose and spell it

## Beat It

- Beat it out on the desk

## Cheer It

- Like a cheerleader (Give me an "h", etc)

## Snap and Clap

- Snap the vowels
- Clap the consonants

## Ketchup

- One hand open, the other closed
- Pound hands together like you would pound a difficult bottle of ketchup.

## Explosion (Volcano)

- Start at a whisper.
- Get louder with each letter.
- Explode when you say the word at the end.

## Marshmallow Clap

- Almost like a clap but you stop just before the hands touch for each letter.

## Slow Motion

- Hold the sound of each letter for a second or two.

## Ride'm Cowboy

- Straddle the back of the chair.
- Spin lasso around for each letter.

- Pretend to rope a calf and pull in at the end when you say the word.

### Deep Voice

- Say the letters and word in a deep voice.

### Mouse Talk

- Squeaky voice with hands curled up by face

### **Scream It / Whisper It**

- Scream the letters and the word
- Followed by whisper the letters then the word (whisper seems to settle the group down after being silly from the scream).

### **In The Seat or Standing Up**

These cheers can be done with students sitting or might be more fun when done standing up.

### Hand Jive

- Pair children up.
- Children clap hands together for consonants and lap clap for vowels.
- Put hands in the air at the end as you say the word.

### Raise the Roof

- Push up toward the ceiling, one push for each letter.

### Disco

- Pretend to be John Travolta in Saturday Night Fever (If you're old enough to know what I am talking about)
- Hand starts at stomach for each letter
- Hand up for consonants

- Hand down for vowels

### Throw the Stars

- Throw one hand at a time up toward the ceiling for each letter.

### Mexican Hat Dance

- Alternate feet in front.

[

### Flapping & Nodding

- Pretend you are a bird and flap your wings, while nodding your head for each letter.

### Stomping

- Stomp out each letter with your foot.

### Motorcycle

- Hang on to the pretend handle bars and do wheelies for each letter.

### Dribble and Shoot

- Dribble the letters and shoot the word.

### Yo-Yo

- Pretend to have a yo-yo in each hand.
- Each time the yo-yo goes down say a letter.
- Do a loop-the-loop for when you say the word at the end.
- You might want to add some sound effects to this one.

### Pumping Iron

- Pretend to be lifting weights, one rep for each letter. You must strain to get each letter up.
- Pretend to mount the barbell on the stand and sound exhausted as you say the word at the end.

### Imaginary Chalkboard

- Children pretend a chalkboard is in front of them.
- Write each letter on the chalkboard. Make the letters large.
- When your finished with each word you can pretend to erase it.
- Note: If teacher is leading from the front of the room he/she will have to form letters backwards.

### Apple Picking

- Pretend to pick an apple from the tree and put it in the basket.
- Pretend to pick up the basket when you saw the word at the end.

### Robot

- Use a robotic voice, with arms moving back and forth ("Danger! Danger! Will Robinson" style)

### Tigger Bounce

- Just do what Tiggers do best - bounce. Bounce up and down for each letter.

### Alligator Clap

- Hold arms straight out with our fingers curled to make the teeth
- Open and close arms, clapping our hands together for each letter

### **Standing Up**

These cheers are done standing up and might require some room to move about.

### Blast Off

- Start crouched at floor
- As you say each letter get a little higher

- Jump into the air at the end as you say the word

### Frog Jumps

- Start standing up.
- As you say each letter crouch down a little farther.
- Jump into the air at the end as you say the word.

### Back Tracer

- Trace the letter on the back of the person in front of you.
- This is best done in a circle. Then everyone has a back to trace on.
- Note: This is also a common strategy in teaching dyslexic children- so they can feel the letter.

### Pat It

- Pat heads for tall letters
- Pat tummies for short letters
- Pat knees for letters that extend below the baseline

### Box It

- Pretend to be a boxer
- One punch for each letter

### Be the Letter

- Sort of like doing the YMCA song.

### Hula

- Hands on hips.
- Swivel for each letter.
- Hands in the air at the end when you say the word.

### Jumping Jacks

- One letter for each movement

### Toe Touches

- One letter for each toe touch.

### Batter Up

- Getting into a batting position
- Take a swing for each letter

### Push-ups

- One push-up for each letter.

### Frisbee

- Throw each letter out Frisbee style

### At the Mound

- Pretend to be a pitcher at the mound and pitch out each letter.
- Pretend to watch the last pitch get hit as you say the word at the end

### Lumber Jack

- Pretend to swing an ax for each letter.
- Pretend the tree is falling down at the end and say the word the way a lumberjack would say TIM-BER!

### Surfin' & Spellin'

- Start out by getting on a surf board,
- Sing: "Let's go spellin' now, everybody's learning how, come and spell it with me!"
- Then while we're surfing we say the letters of the word!

### The Swim

- Swim the letters.

Hold your nose and go down at the end when you say the word.

### **Songs to Sing**

#### Songs for 3 Letter Words

- This Old Man
- Jingle Bells
- Are You Sleeping? (C-A-N can)
- Three Blind Mice

#### Songs for 4 Letter Words

- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Skip to My Lou
- YMCA
- Are You Sleeping?

#### Songs for 5 Letter Words

- Songs to Skip to My Lou
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat
- You Are My Sunshine
- BINGO ("There was a class that learned to spell; And this is what they sang-o")

#### Songs for 6 Letter Words

- This Old Man
- Jingle Bells
- Happy Birthday
- Michael Row Your Boat Ashore
- The Farmer in the Dell
- Skip to My Lou

### Songs for 7 Letter Words

- She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain When She Comes
- My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean
- Twinkle, Twinkle
- Willoughby Wallaby Woo

[

### Songs for 8 Letter Words

- We Wish You a Merry Christmas
- For He's a Jolly Good Fellow

### Songs for 9 Letter Words

- I'm A Little Teapot