

Notes for teachers

Sound Phonics supports the teaching and learning of phonics. It can be used in school or at home, providing children with opportunities to apply and practise their developing phonic knowledge and skills. The series follows the same basic structure as the systematic phonics resource *Letters and Sounds* (© Crown copyright 2007) and can also be used with other incremental phonics programmes.

Encouraging a multi-sensory approach

Hearing and speaking

The **Sound Phonics** activities are most effective if the child works through them with an adult. This gives the child the opportunity to say and listen to the letter sounds, practising phonic skills orally as well as on the page.

Touch, sight and movement

Many of the activities can be repeated using solid plastic letters: handling these and feeling their shape can help children to recognise and remember the letters. The segmenting and blending activities can also be recreated using magnetic letters on a fridge door or in a tin tray.

Tracing letter shapes helps children to remember the letters and how to form them correctly. At this stage, many children will still be developing the physical skills necessary to correctly form letters in pencil. In this book they are asked to point to the relevant letters and occasionally to trace their outlines with one finger (see pages 13, 21 and 31). They should also be encouraged to form the letter shapes in the air, in sand or using a paintbrush.

In school, children are helped to remember letter shapes, how they are formed and the sounds they represent, using pictures, rhymes and hand movements. All these can be referred to as they work through the appropriate page of this book.

Focus statements

The 'Focus' notes at the foot of each page summarise the teaching objectives for that page, expressed simply so that any adult working with the child will understand them. Technical terms are defined in the Glossary on page 47, for the benefit of parents and other helpers.

Assessment pages

The assessment pages may be used as an informal check on the child's achievements and include an assessment summary, which is presented in simple language and in a format that a teacher or parent can run through with the child.

A **Glossary and notes for parents** section is provided at the back of the book, on page 47.

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