

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 and eventually writing the letter shapes helps children to remember the letters. By the end of Phase Four, many children will be able to form letters correctly – by copying them at first, and then independently. In this book, the early activities provide a model for children to follow as they write. Later in the book they begin to write letters and words independently. Towards the end of the book (page 34) they add words to captions and sentences.

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 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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