

Notes for parents and carers

Topic	Teaching tip	Key vocabulary	Extension activity
CVC words: things page 4	Help your child, if needed, to use the correct starting place and letter formation for each letter.	CVC word, consonant, vowel, log, sun	Ask your child to use a finger to write CVC words on the surface of a sealed zip-lock bag full of paint.
CVC words: animals page 5	Prompt your child to say the sound for each letter as they trace or write it.	animal, fox, bat, dog, hen	Make a set of CVC animal memory cards and play a pairs matching game together.
CVC words: actions page 6	Encourage your child to use one finger for each sound in the word to help identify the missing sound.	action word, sit, run, rip, dig	Play 'Simon says' using CVC action words. Your child writes the word in the air and then does the action.
CVC words: describing words page 7	Help your child to learn the five vowels. Show how a vowel is always in the middle of a CVC word.	describing word, big, fit, wet, fun	Ask your child to write CVC describing words in rolled-out play dough using a pencil or key.
High-frequency words page 8	Tell your child to look closely at each word for a few seconds before covering it.	common, blend, segment, spell, write	Give your child magnetic letters to write each high-frequency word on the fridge for repeated practice.
Tricky words page 9	Explain that we can't sound out tricky words using simple phonics – we just have to learn them.	write, remember, understand, meaning, spell	Help your child to practise writing tricky words with fun food items – like a carrot dipped in paint.
Words with double letters page 10	Help your child to see that there is sometimes more than one possible answer – like 'miss' or 'mill'.	double, buzz, tell, hiss, puff	Read or tell the fairy tale 'The Three Little Pigs'. Help your child to write speech bubbles saying 'huff' and 'puff'.
More words with double letters page 11	Encourage your child to say each word slowly out loud before writing it down.	kiss, bull, jazz, hill, doll	Write 'kiss' on a mirror with lipstick or a whiteboard marker pen. Ask your child to write more double-letter words on the mirror.
Words with ck page 12	Remind your child that 'ck' makes a single /k/ sound and is only used in the middle or at the end of words.	kick, back, neck, ticket, duck	Ask your child to create a mind map of 'ck' words around a large 'ck', using images and writing.
Words with sh and ch page 13	Write 'kitchen' and 'fishing' to show that 'ch' and 'sh' can also be used in the middle of words.	ship, shell, chip, bench, chick	Use a simple picture dictionary together to find examples of words that begin with 'ch' and 'sh'.
Words with th and ng page 14	Remind your child about the buzzing (voiced) and whispery (unvoiced) versions of the /th/ sound (as in 'this' and 'thin').	this, thick, king, ring, sing	Challenge your child to make a long path by writing lots of 'ng' and 'th' words on a roll of masking tape.
Words with ai, ee and igh page 15	Use the words 'digraph' ("2 letters, 1 sound") and 'trigraph' ("3 letters, 1 sound") with your child.	jail, night, feet, rain, tree	Help your child to pipe 'ai', 'ee' and 'igh' words on to a cake, using icing and a piping bag.
Words with oa, oo and ar page 16	Remind your child of the long and short /oo/ sounds (as in 'moon' and 'wood').	goat, boot, tart, foot, coat	Give your child a mission to write 'oa', 'oo' and 'ar' words in moon dust (drinking chocolate powder) for aliens to read.
Words with or, ur and ow page 17	Encourage your child to read the whole sentence before working out the missing word.	fork, owl, cow, church, torch	Ask your child to write 'or', 'ur' and 'ow' words using a paintbrush and glue. Scatter glitter on top.
Words with oi, ear and air page 18	Prompt your child to think of rhyming words to help them think of additional words.	coin, beard, toilet, chair, oil	Have a chocolate-coin hunt, with 'oi', 'ear' and 'air' words on the back of them. To keep a coin, your child writes the word.