

Notes for parents and carers

Topic	Teaching tip	Key vocabulary	Extension activity
The 'ff' sound page 4	Say that 'ff' makes the single 'f' sound. Explain this sound, and other digraphs to come, as "2 letters, 1 sound".	double, pair, huff, puff, off	Read the fairy tale, 'The Three Little Pigs', huffing and puffing together in the right places.
The 'll' sound page 5	Say that 'll' makes the single 'l' sound.	well, tell, dull, ill, bell	Give your child string or ribbon to make words which include 'll'.
The 'ss' sound page 6	Say that 'ss' makes the single 's' sound.	kiss, hiss, mess, boss, dress	Hunt for 'ss' objects together around your home.
The 'zz' sound page 7	Say that 'zz' makes the single 'z' sound. Talk about the pictures together and help your child to use the words in a context that makes sense.	buzz, fizz, fuzz, jazz, frizz	Help your child to create a 'zz' bug from paper or card. They write a different 'zz' word on each of the bug's legs.
The 'ck' sound page 8	Say that 'ck' makes the same sound as the single letters 'c' and 'k'. Explain that 'ck' is only used in the middle or end of words.	duck, sock, lock, ticket, rocket	Muddle up several pairs of socks and challenge your child to match them up again.
The 'sh' sound page 9	Say 'sh' as in 'ship'. Help your child to remember this sound with a finger to their lips – 'Shh!'.	ship, shed, shell, fish, brush	Read your child the story <i>Shh! We Have a Plan</i> by Chris Haughton.
The 'ch' sound page 10	Say 'ch' as in 'chip'. Demonstrate the difference between 'ch' and 'tr' (as in 'tree'), which can be confused.	chips, chicken, chill, check, rich	Learn and sing the song 'Chick chick chick chicken, lay a little egg for me' together.
The 'th' sound page 11	Say 'th' as in 'thin' and 'this'. Help your child to hear and make the two sounds: the whispery (unvoiced) 'thin' and the buzzing (voiced) 'this'.	pronounce, thick, thin, them, this	Use card to cut out some 'thinking bubbles'. Ask your child to draw or write some words with the different 'th' sounds in the bubbles.
The 'ng' sound page 12	Say 'ng' as in 'sing'. Model the difference between 'ng' and 'ng-k' (as in 'sink').	song, bang, king, ring, thing	Read the poem 'On the Ning Nang Nong' by Spike Milligan.
High-frequency words page 13	Encourage your child to do the dice activity several times, to read the words with greater speed and confidence. Make sure you stop before they get bored or tired.	high-frequency word, common, blend, segment, learn	Create a high-frequency word wall together at home, so that your child sees these important words frequently and can refer to them.
Tricky words page 14	Explain that we can't sound out tricky words using simple phonics – these words don't follow the rules and we just have to learn them.	tricky word, learn, sight, spell, remember	Write the tricky words in chalk on a wall outside. Ask your child to read the word, then shoot it with a water pistol to make it disappear.
The 'ai' sound page 15	Say 'ai' as in 'wait'. Demonstrate how this digraph makes a 'long' vowel sound.	rain, nail, sail, chain, tail	Play a game of Pin the tail on the donkey with your child.
The 'ee' sound page 16	Say 'ee' as in 'tree'. Help your child to sound out and blend the 'ee' words to read them, emphasising the vowel sound.	feet, sheep, sheet, deep, teeth	Give your child cotton wool, card and paint to make their own woolly sheep.
The 'oa' sound page 17	Say 'oa' as in 'boat'. Encourage your child to use the picture clues to help complete the crossword.	boat, soap, road, toad, foam	Go for a local walk together. Look for the word 'road' on street signs and count how often you find it.
The 'igh' sound page 18	Say 'igh' as in 'high'. Explain this trigraph as "3 letters, 1 sound". Hint at the longer words on the dartboard – like 'sight'.	high, night, light, might, tight	Add more complex consonant pairs around the edge of the dartboard, like 'fr', 'br' and 'fl'.
The 'oo' sound page 19	Say 'oo' as in 'zoo' and 'foot'. Help your child to hear and make the long 'oo' and short 'oo'.	book, wood, moon, zoom, tooth	Give your child hooped cereal to make the 'oo' digraph in different 'oo' words.