

Notes for parents and carers

Topic	Teaching tip	Key vocabulary	Extension activity
The 's' sound page 4	Say 's' as in 'sun'. Encourage your child to stretch out the sound like a hissing snake.	sun, sock, sandwich, snake, snail	Make a sock shaker together, using a colourful sock and dry beans. Shake it and make the 's' sound with each shake.
The 'a' sound page 5	Say 'a' as in 'ant'. Show your child how to move their mouth to make the sound. Talk about the 'a' pictures and explain any that your child does not recognise.	apple, ant, anchor, astronaut, arrow	Ask your child to create their own 'a' object out of play dough.
The 't' sound page 6	Say 't' as in 'tap'. Show your child how to make the pure, short, bouncy 't' sound with no 'uh' after it.	tap, tree, tortoise, treasure, train	Go on a 't' trail outside together and take photos of anything beginning with the 't' sound.
The 'p' sound page 7	Say 'p' as in 'pet'. Again, show your child how to bounce on the pure, short sound with no 'uh'.	panda, pencil, parrot, penguin, puppy	Take a photo of your child dressed as a pirate. Challenge them to draw a picture of a parrot.
The 'i' sound page 8	Say 'i' as in 'ink'. Show your child how to move their mouth – they may find the vowel sounds harder to pronounce.	iguana, igloo, insect, imp, ink	With your child, go on an insect hunt in the garden or local park. Ask how many insects they can see.
The 'n' sound page 9	Say 'n' as in 'nut'. Show your child how to move their mouth and to stretch out the sound.	nurse, necklace, nut, nose, nest	Help your child to make a necklace using beads and string.
The 'm' sound page 10	Say 'm' as in 'man'. Make up actions with your child to help remember the sounds – like rubbing tummies for 'm', as if some tasty food is on its way.	mouse, mat, moon, monkey, mask	Help your child find 'm' objects when looking through a magazine, pausing at the pages with objects for them to find.
The 'd' sound page 11	Say 'd' as in 'dog'. Encourage your child to say lots of short, bouncy 'd' sounds in succession.	door, drum, dinosaur, dragon, doughnut	Design and make a new dinosaur together and give it a name beginning with the 'd' sound.
The 'g' sound page 12	Say 'g' as in 'gold'. Prompt your child to emphasise the sound to help find the 'g' animals.	goat, guitar, goose, gorilla, goldfish	Challenge your child to create a 'g' animal of their choice using junk modelling materials.
The 'o' sound page 13	Say 'o' as in 'off'. Show your child how to make the round shape with their mouth.	ostrich, orangutan, otter, ox, olive	With your child, make an octopus using a polystyrene ball and pipe cleaners.
The 'c' sound page 14	Say 'c' as in 'cat'. Show your child how to make the short 'c' sound with no 'uh'.	candle, castle, camera, computer, cooker	Bury some 'c' objects and other objects in sand or similar for your child to find and sort.
The 'k' sound page 15	Say 'k' as in 'kit'. Explain that 'c' and 'k' look different, but they make the same sound.	king, kite, kitten, key, koala	Play a game of 'k' bingo together, with a list of 'k' words to call and pictures of them on a board to fill.
The 'e' sound page 16	Say 'e' as in 'egg'. Show your child how to move their mouth to make the sound.	elephant, egg, elf, elbow, envelope	Play a game using cards with different letters written on them. At every 'e', your child does an action (for example, with an arm like an elephant's trunk).
The 'u' sound page 17	Say 'u' as in 'up'. Tell your child to listen carefully to identify the middle sounds, as they can be harder to hear. Say the words slowly to help with this.	umbrella, upside down, uncle, ugly, upset	Go outside together on a rainy day and listen to the sound the rain makes on the umbrella.