

Fun Phonics For Your *Little Genius*



BY SUZY MUNROE

CHAPTER 1

About the Author

- An Introduction to Suzanne Munroe.



About the Author

My name is Suzanne Munroe, also known as Suzy or Teacher Suzy. I have been a passionate teacher for over five years and a tutor for two.

I was born and raised in a small town in Northern Ireland. I moved to Newport Beach, CA in 2011. I spent one and a half years living in the California sunshine and attempting to surf. There I began tutoring and blogging.

In December 2012, I moved to San Francisco where I love being emerged in the EdTech world.

Teaching is my passion and I have gained my most rewarding experiences when teaching my students to read.

Through sharing my lessons in this book, I hope to provide fellow teachers, tutors, home schoolers and parents with the opportunity to help their children succeed with reading and Phonics.

I want to share the joyous feeling of when you know you have helped your child to read their first words.

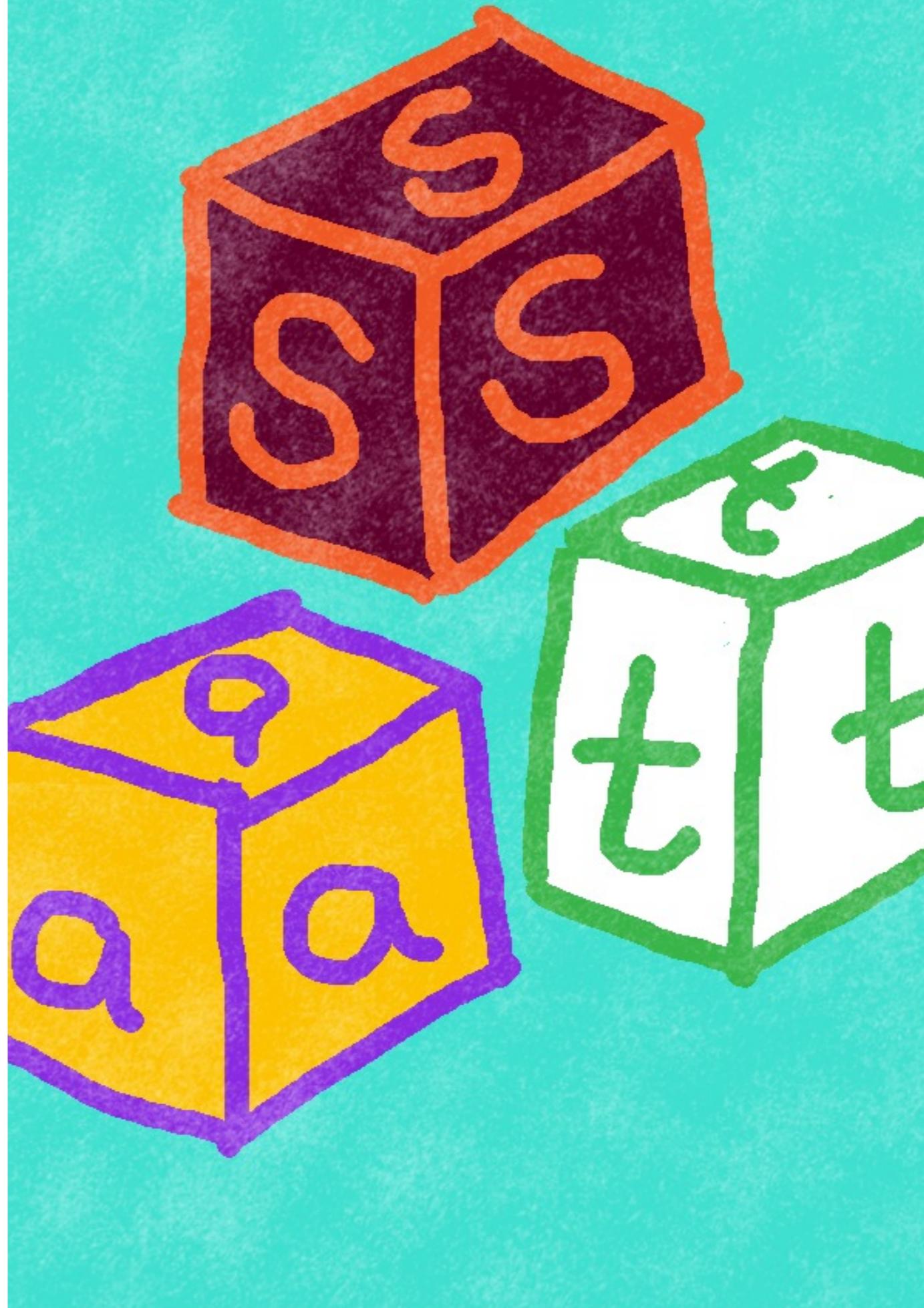
Enjoy, Suzy :-)

teachersuzy.com

CHAPTER 2

Phonics

- What is Phonics?
- Why is teaching Phonics important?
- What age should I begin teaching Phonics to my child?
- How this book can help your child succeed in Phonics.
- How to use the book.



What is Phonics?

Phonics is an understanding that the **sounds** we make are represented by letters.

Beginners to Phonics will be introduced to **one letter, one sound**. Eg: the letter ‘a’ makes an “aaa” sound like in ‘apple’. These beginning one letter, one sound representations are the **focus** for this book.

Why is teaching Phonics important?

Phonics is the basis and the starting point for your child to **succeed** in speaking, reading and spelling. Children need to develop an understanding that the words we use are made up of letters and that **each of these letters make a sound.**

For beginners, it is important to gain a firm grasp and confident ability to **recognize** the sounds of the letters in the alphabet and to be able to use them

confidently to read and write simple words.

I believe from my experience that teaching the **lower case** letters **first** is the best method. After all, approximately 95% of the letters we see in texts are lower case. Upper case letters can gradually be introduced to your child and you can discuss these in the books you read together. Once children are familiar with all the lower case letters and sounds, upper case letters can be introduced in fun ways such as playing matching games.

What age should I begin teaching Phonics to my child?

Children begin learning sounds from **birth**. Your child hears and listens to your tone of voice and the sounds you make. Spend time **mimicking** your baby's babbling and gurgling to **encourage** them to make noise. This is a preparation for more formal learning of sounds.

You can prepare your child for Phonics as soon as they are beginning to talk. When looking at objects and teaching your child new words, **repeat** the first letter sound, "bbb ball". Help your child by saying the words slowly, emphasizing the **shape of your mouth** as you do so. Introducing **rhyming** and **alliteration** in nursery rhymes also provides great preparation for Phonics development.

Research and studies suggest that we should begin more **formal teaching** of Phonics in your child's **first years** at school. You can assist your child's development by using this book as a step by step, **systematic approach** to learning sounds. The book follows the

letter learning pattern of the successful ‘Linguistic Phonics’ approach.

How this book can help your child succeed in Phonics.

The activities in this book will **empower** your child’s ability to succeed in school. The more practice and skills your child gains, the more experienced and **confident** they will become with using their multiple skills in Phonics.

The activities in this book provide your child with the tools they can use **independently** to assist their personal

Phonics development. The activities can be used **alongside** your child's school program and can also be used to give your child a **head start** to their school career.

'Pbs Parents' make a apt reasoning of why the approach adopted in this book helps children succeed with their Phonics.

"Systematic and explicit Phonics instruction—Phonics instruction that is direct and follows a particular sequence—is more effective than Phonics instruction that is not systematic or no Phonics instruction at all."

How to use the book

Simply follow the instructions and video tutorials. The video tutorials are there to **guide** you on how to teach the lessons.

Each **chapter** identifies the sounds you will encounter.

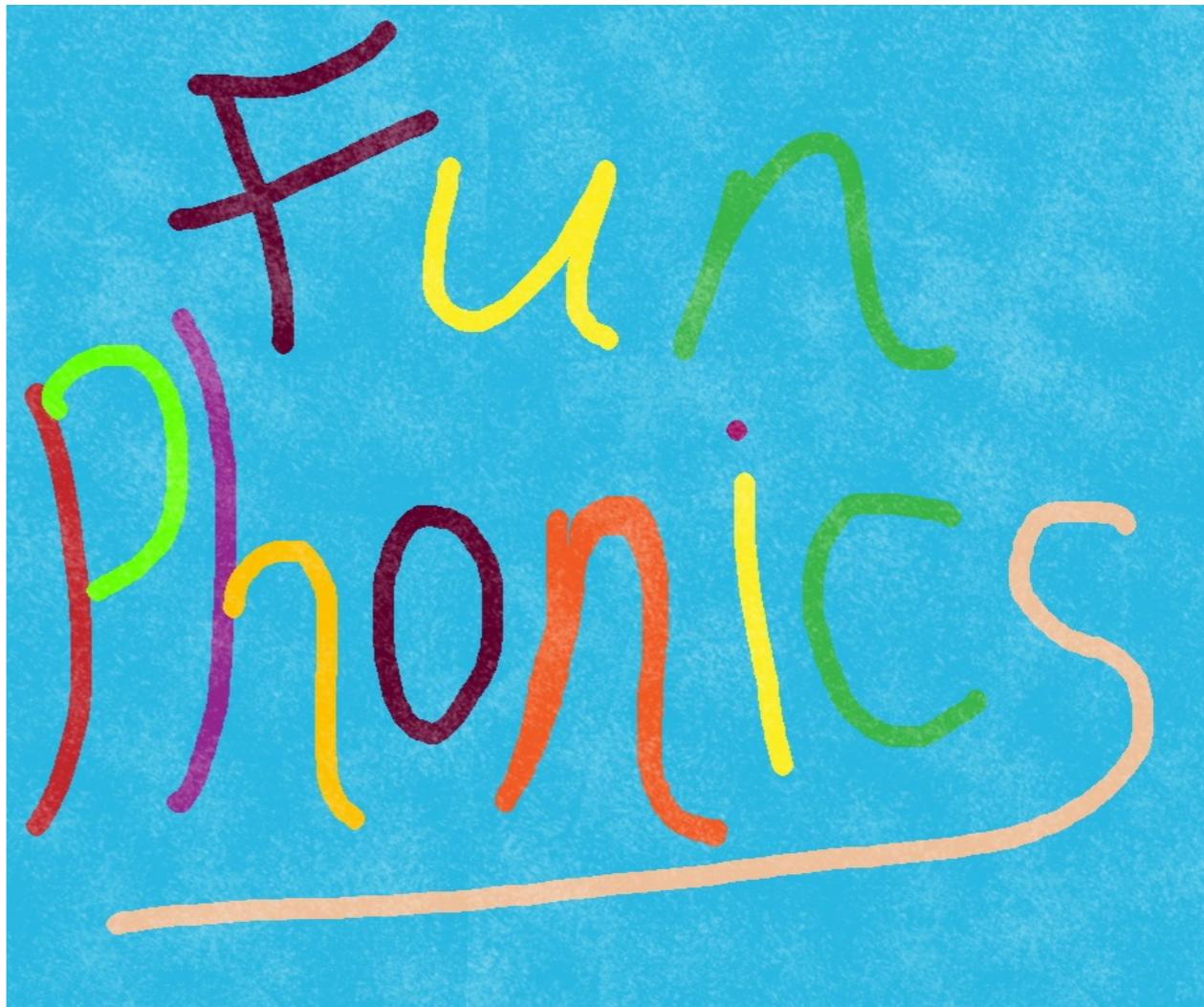
Each **section** represents one lesson and follows a structure with **5 activities**.

Spend **5-10 minutes** on each activity.

At the end of each section, I use flash cards to test and record my child's knowledge of the sounds taught.

Lesson Structure

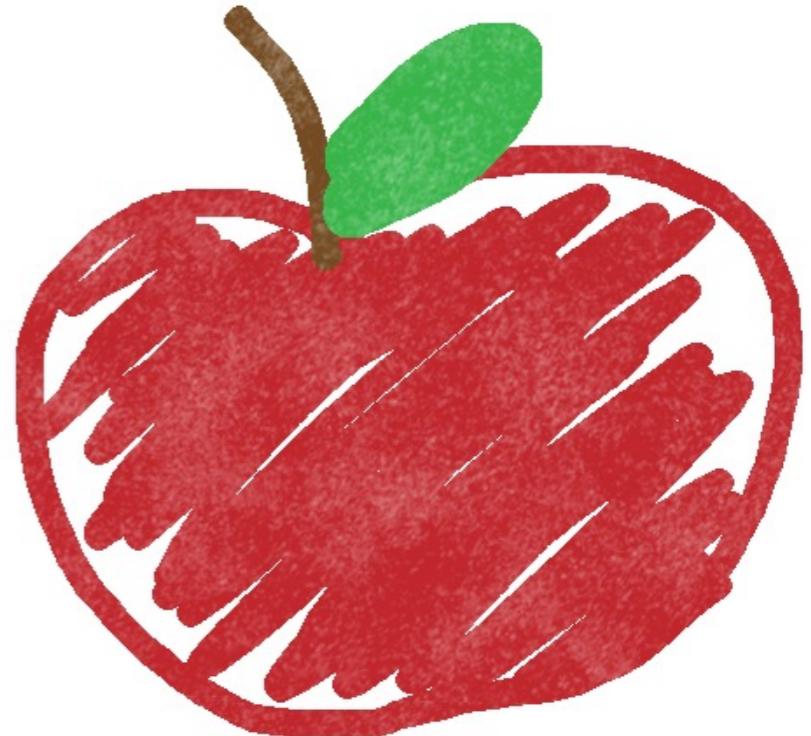
- Learning the sounds of the letters.
- A challenge game: to help recognize the letters.
- Letter formation: learning how to write the sounds.
- Word building / writing CVC words
(Consonant, vowel, consonant e.g: sat.)
- Blending / reading CVC words.



First 6 Sounds:

s a t p i n

- Practice saying the sounds
- Games
- Reading words
- Forming the letters
- Writing words



Let's get our sounds flowing

First we will have fun with **s a t p i n**.
Let's see if we can **say** the **sounds** together. Play the video and follow my lead. **Display** the sounds for your child to reference.

S a t
p i n

Video: How to say the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n Phonetically



Use the video to listen to the sounds of the letters. Looking at the shape of my mouth and copying this can help you say the sounds.

<http://j.mp/soundSATPIN>

Challenge Game: Letter Hide

What you need:

- Sound squares. Small squares of paper with sounds handwritten on each.

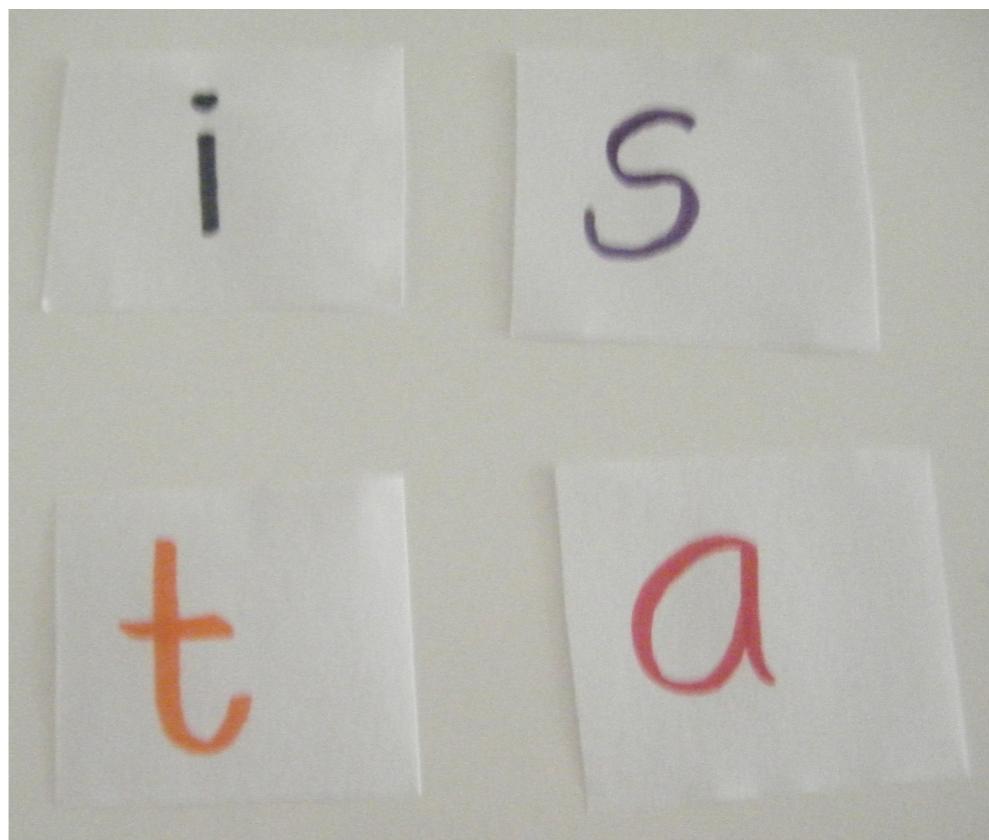
How to play:

- Lay the sound squares face up.
- Your child **closes their eyes**.

- You **remove** one of the letters. They then have to tell you which sound is **missing**.

- Start off by laying out 3 of the letters, then 4, 5 and finally using all 6 letters.

This game provides so much excitement, so be prepared to have lots of fun.



Forming the letters

Our next step is to practice **forming the letters**. You can use any form of **writing tool**. The more mediums you provide the better. Think chalk, pens, crayons, pencils, white board and markers. Again, always **display** the sounds for your child to reference.



Video: Letter Formation of letters
s,a,t,p,i,n



Forming: s a t p i n

<http://j.mp/writeSATPIN>

Writing / Building words

Now it is time to **build** some words. Get some **small paper squares** at the ready. Just take a regular page and cut some little squares about 2 inches by 2 inches. Don't be too fussy, put them in a little box and choose a writing tool.

Click the video to start **word building**. Again **display** the sounds for your child to reference. Then try some more of your own from the list.

Video: Writing words / word building
using s,a,t, p, i, n



Using sound squares to build 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/wordsSATPIN>

Additional Word List.

You can build these words too:

in, as, sip, nap, tin.

Reading Simple 3 Letter Words

This is the **most difficult** part for children. Please do not expect them to be able to do this easily first time around. In fact, they may not be able to do it at all over the first few lessons.

They may be able to sound individual letters in words perfectly, for example they will say “s..a..t..” and then when they blend, they will come out with something obscure like “tan” or “tas”.

Your role is a **guide** and **helper**. Do not lose patience and **praise** their every efforts.

This area takes much **practice** and **repetition**. Repetition is a **fundamental** part of a child’s learning. So just keep practicing together and be a **model** to your child, show them how to do it. Then say it together. Don’t ever leave them to struggle, help them. In time they **will** get the hang of it.

Let’s try it. We are going to use the 6 sounds **s a t p i n** to **read** some words. Watch the video to see how to **sound** out and **blend** the words.

Additional Word List.

sat, pin, pit, tan, an, at

Video: Using the sounds s,a,t,p,i,n to read and blend words



The video demonstrates sounding and blending simple 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/blendSATPIN>

More Sounds:

m o c f r u d h g
k b

- Practice saying the sounds
- Games
- Reading words
- Forming the letters
- Writing words



More sounds

We are ready to add to our sounds. Next we are going to add **m o c f r u**. We will add this to our knowledge of the previous six sounds. Let's practice saying these new **sounds**.

Write these sounds on a **page** and **display**. Your child can use these as a reference throughout all activities.

m o c
f r u

Video: How to say the sounds m, o, c, f, r, u Phonetically



Use the video to listen to the sounds of the letters. Looking at the shape of my mouth and copying this can help you say the sounds.

<http://j.mp/soundMOCFRU>

Challenge Game: Letter Pop Up

What you need:

- Piece of card (Optional: decorate it like a wall.)
- 6 sound squares labelled **m o c f r u**.

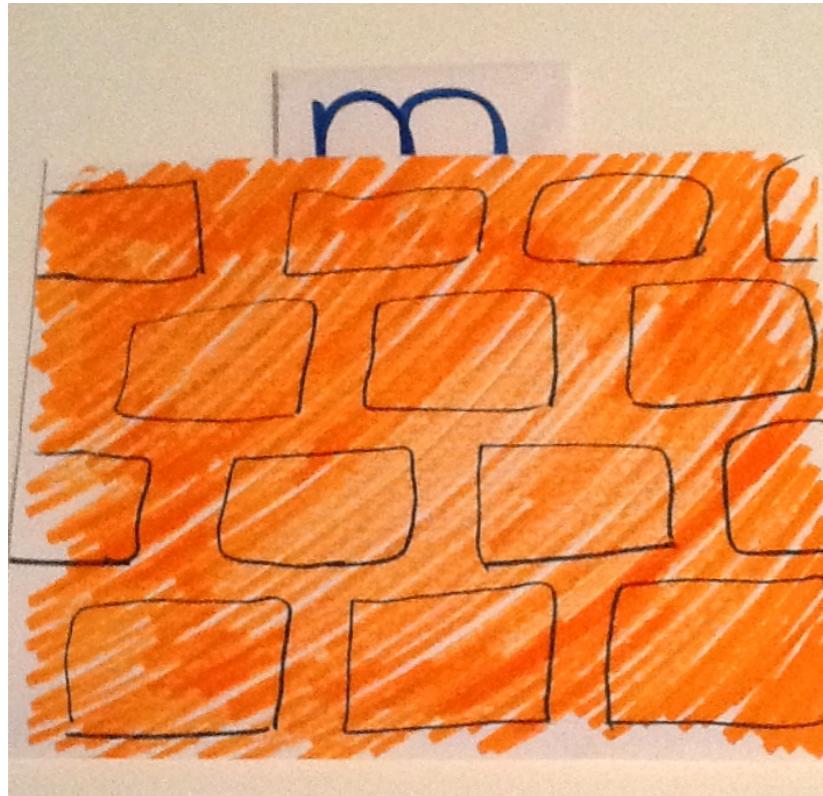
How to play:

- One by one, hide the letters behind the piece of card.

- Very **slowly** begin to **reveal** the letters, pulling them up to reveal only a **small part** of the letter at a time.

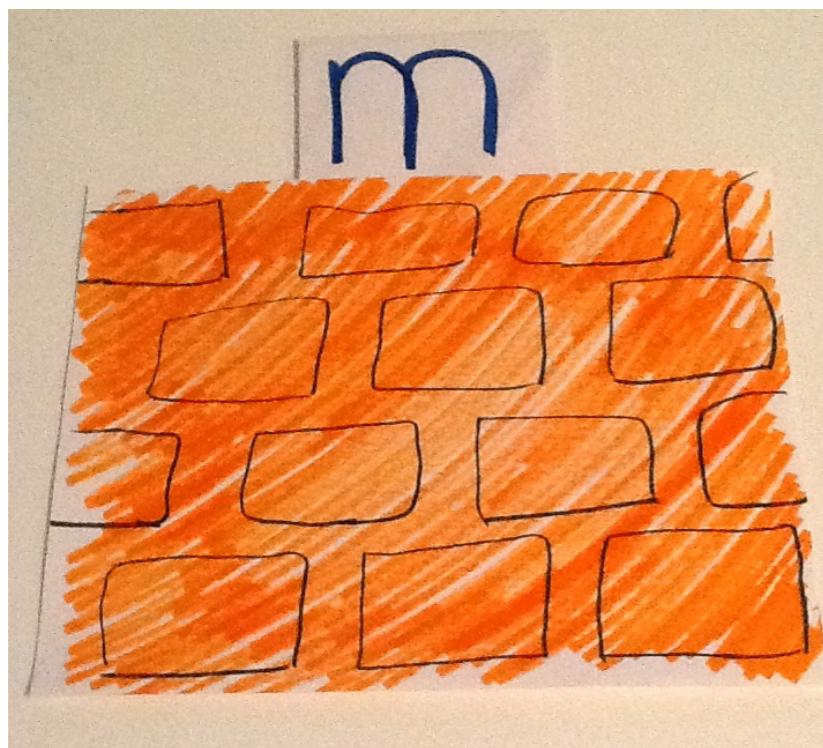
Your child will be filled with **suspense** waiting to see which letter it is. See how **quickly** they can guess the letter before it is totally revealed.

See pictures on next screen.



Forming the letters

Next we will practice **writing** each of the sounds. Get your paper and writing tools ready.



s a t
p i n

m o c
f r u

Video: Letter Formation of letters m,
o, c, f, r, u



Forming: m o c f r u

<http://j.mp/writeMOCFRU>

Writing / Building words

Let's **build** some words using these sounds. We will use some of our **s a t p i n** sounds too. **Display** all the sounds for your child to reference.

Additional Word List.

You can build these words too: mat, cat, cut fat, rat

Video: Writing words / word building using m,o, c, f, r, u



Word building and making multiple words by changing one letter.

<http://j.mp/wordsMOCFRU>

Reading simple 3 letter words

Just like the previous section we will practice **reading, sounding** and **blending** some simple 3 letter words.
Display the 6 new sounds.

Remember, **repetition** and **patience** are key here.

Additional Words List

fit, rot, mop, map

Video: Using the sounds m,o,c,f, r, u to read and blend words



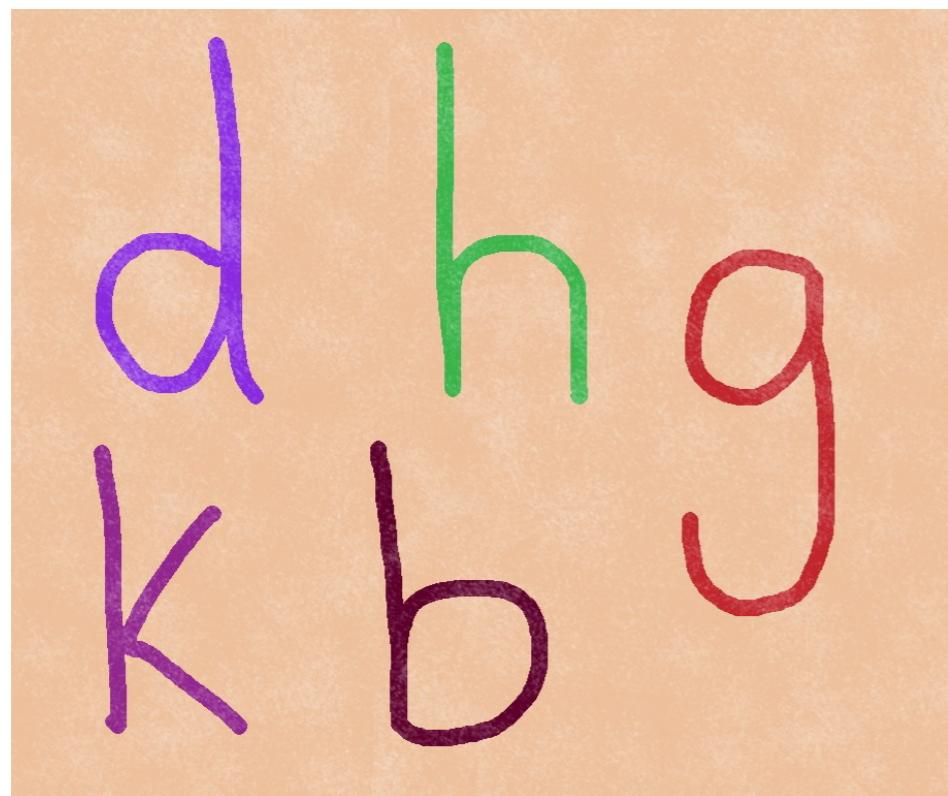
The video demonstrates sounding and blending simple 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/blendMOCFRU2>

More sounds

We are ready to add to our sounds. We are now ready to add **d h g k b**. Let's practice saying these sounds.

Write these sounds out on a **page** and **display**. Your child can use these as a reference throughout all activities.



Video: How to say the sounds d, h, g, k, b Phonetically



Use the video to listen to the sounds of the letters. Looking at the shape of my mouth and copying this can help you say the sounds.

<http://j.mp/soundDHGKB>

Challenge Game: Animals

What you need:

- Acting skills.

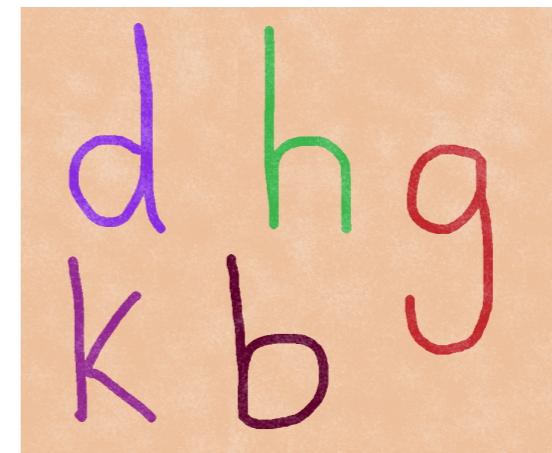
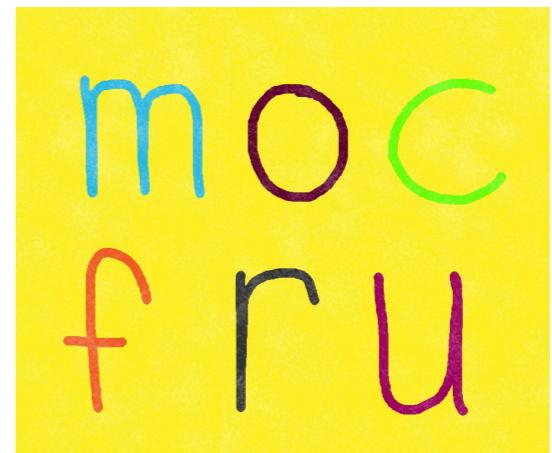
How to play:

- Think of an **animal** whose name **begins** with each of the letters.
- Take turns to **act** like this animal / make sounds like this animal

• The other player **guesses** what animal you are and what **sound** your name begins with.

Forming the letters

Next, we will practice **writing** each of the sounds. Get your paper and writing tools ready.



Video: Letter Formation of letters d, h, g, k, b



Forming: d, h, g, k, b

<http://j.mp/writeDHGKB>

Writing / Building words

Let's **build some words** using these sounds. We will use **all** of our sounds learned from previous activities. Display all the sounds.

Additional Word List.

You can build these words too:

hat, dig, hog

Video: Writing words / word building using d, h, g, k, b



Word building and helping your child with tricky sounds eg: choosing c or k?

<http://j.mp/wordsDHGKB>

Reading simple 3 letter words

Just like before, we will practice **reading, sounding and blending** some simple 3 letter words.

Additional words list

dog, kit, hot

Video: Using the sounds d, h, g, k, b,
to read and blend words



The video demonstrates sounding
and blending simple 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/blendDHGKB>

The Last 8

Sounds: j e v x l

w y z

- Practice saying the sounds

- Games

- Reading words

- Forming the letters

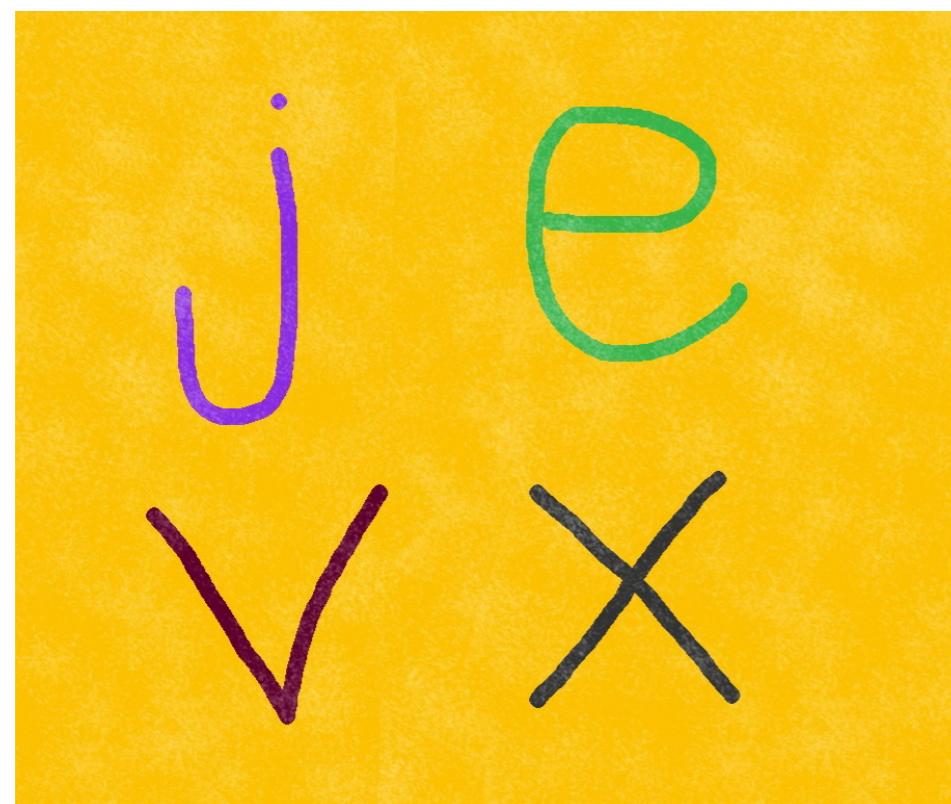
- Writing words

a b c d e
f g h i j k
l m n o p
q r s t u
v w x y z

More sounds

Our next step is to add **j e v x**. Let's practice saying these sounds.

Again, write these sounds out on a **page** and **display**. Your child can use these as a reference throughout all activities.



Video: How to say the sounds j, e, v, x Phonetically



Use the video to listen to the sounds of the letters. Looking at the shape of my mouth and copying this can help you say the sounds.

<http://j.mp/soundJEVX>

Challenge Game: Racing Sounds

What you need:

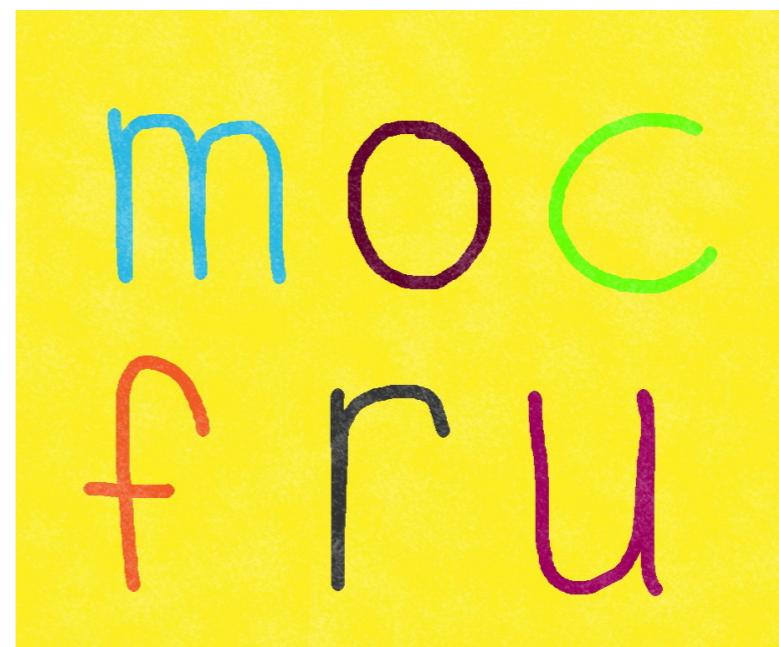
- This game might need a little **space** to avoid bumps and crashes due to excitement and moving.
- Large sound squares for j e v x.

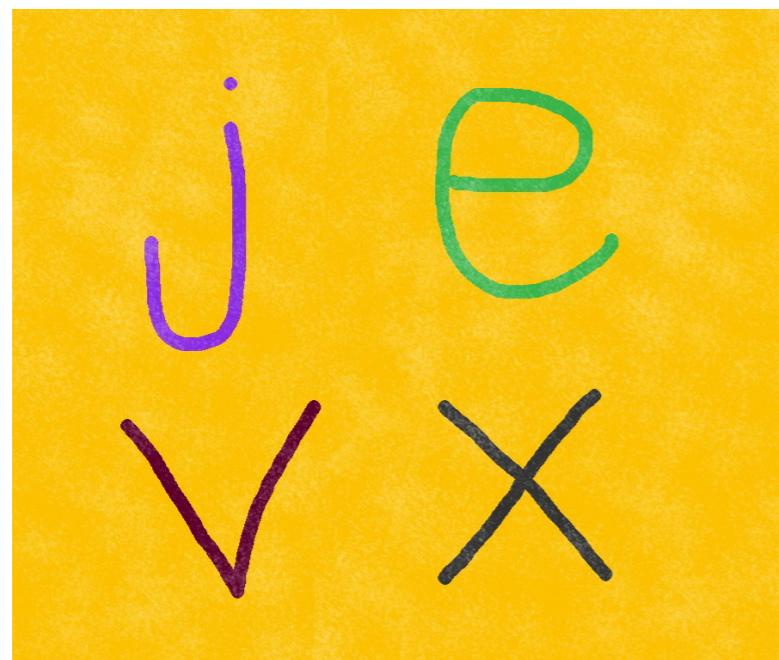
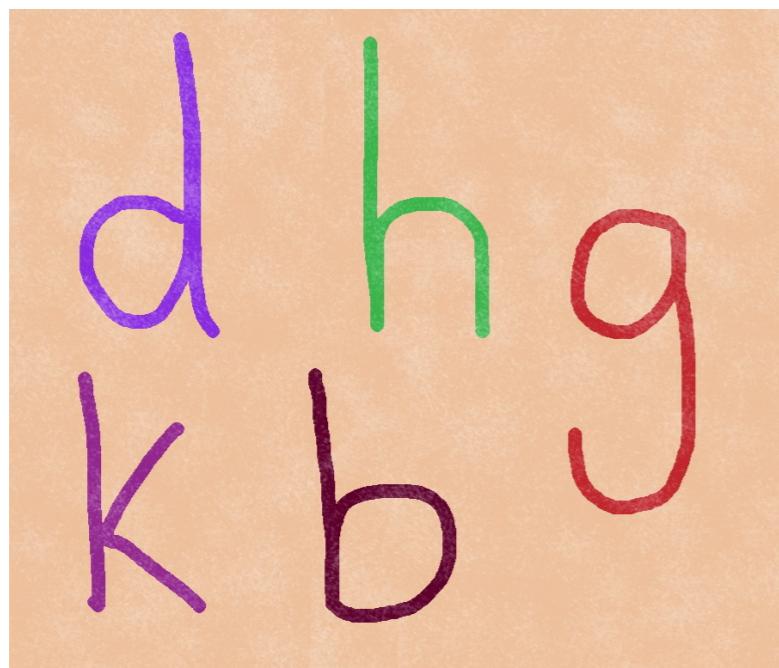
How to play:

- Place **each one** of the letters on **four different** walls. Eg j is to the right, e to the left etc.
- Stand in the **middle** of the room. Say a word beginning with j, e, v or x or just say the letter sound.
- Your child then has to **look** for the letter and run / walk to the correct wall and **say the sound**. If you have limited space, they could point to the correct wall instead.

Forming the letters

Next we will practice **writing** each of the sounds. Get your paper and writing tools ready.





Video: Letter Formation of letters j, e, v, x



Forming: j, e, v, x

<http://j.mp/writeJEVX>

Writing / Building words

Let's **build** some words using these sounds. We will use all of our sounds learned from previous activities. Display all the sounds.

Additional Word List.

jot, vet

Video: Writing words / word building using j, e, v, x



Word building and rhyming word game.

<http://j.mp/wordsJEVX>

Reading simple 3 letter words

Just like before we will practice **reading**, **sounding** and **blending** some simple 3 letter words.

Additional Word List.

box, net, jot

Video: Using the sounds j, e, v, x, to read and blend words



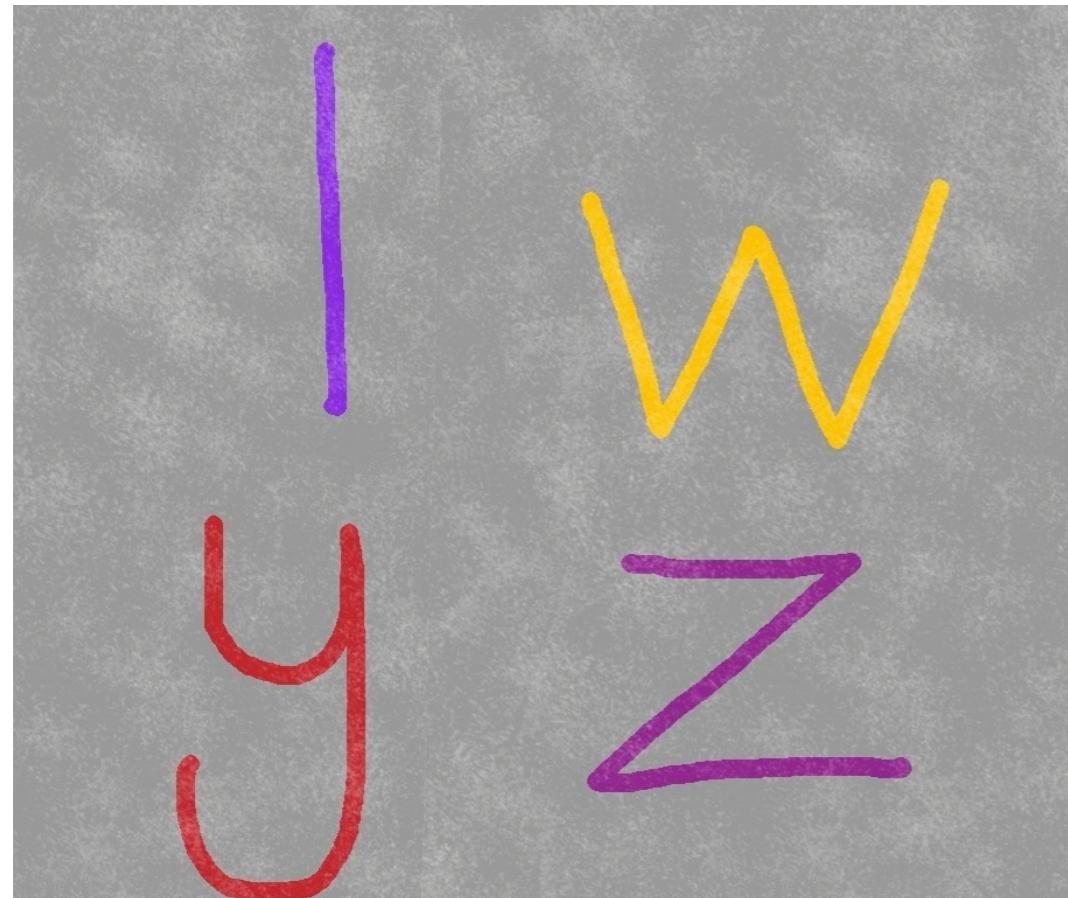
The video demonstrates sounding and blending simple 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/blendJEVX>

More sounds

Our final step is to add **l w y z**. Let's practice saying these sounds.

Follow the same steps. Write these sounds out on a **page** and **display** for your child to reference.



Video: How to say the sounds l, w, y, z Phonetically



Use the video to listen to the sounds of the letters. Looking at the shape of my mouth and copying this can help you say the sounds.

<http://j.mp/soundLWYZ>

Challenge game: Sound Hide and Seek

What you need:

- Large sound squares with sounds l, w, y, z.

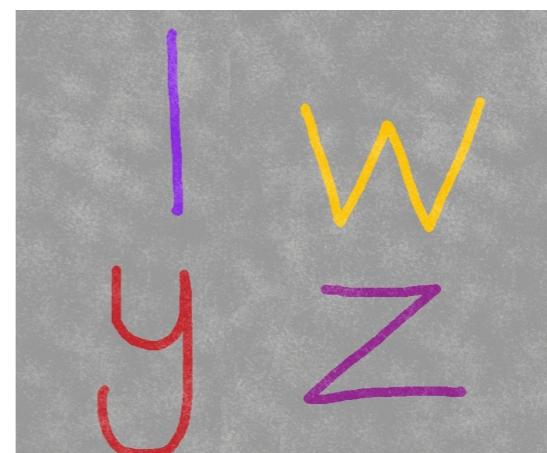
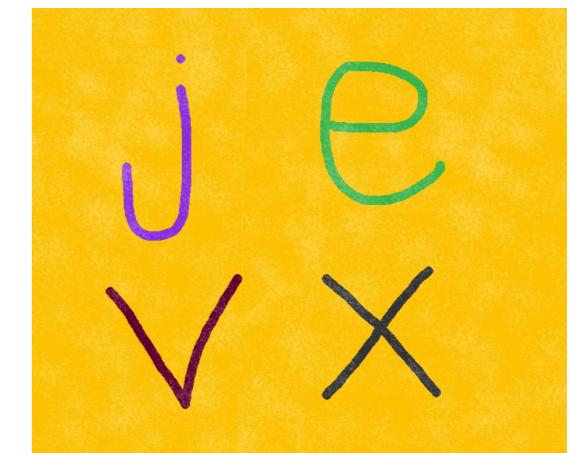
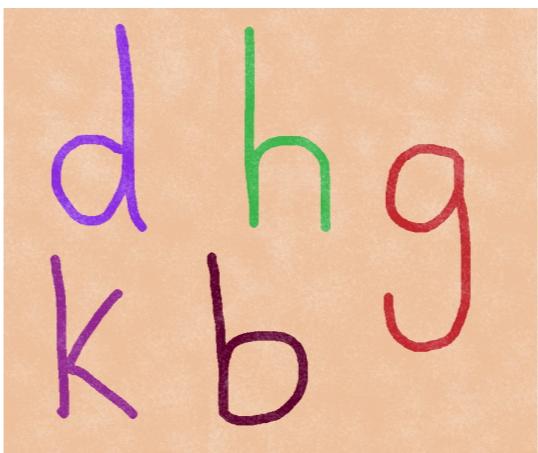
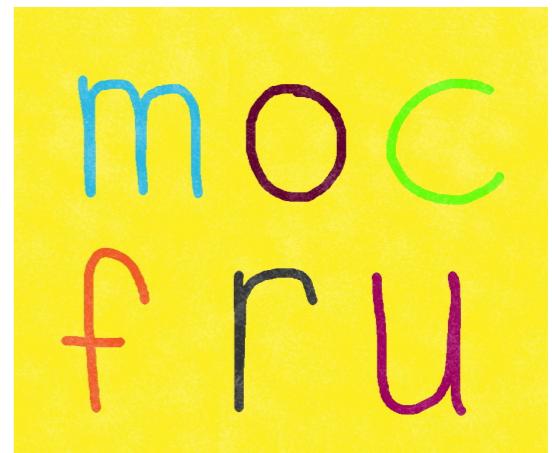
How to play:

- Get your child to leave the room for a few minutes while you **hide** the letters around in the room.

- Your child has to find the letter. When they find it, they must tell you the **sound** it makes and a **word** that begins with this letter.

Forming the letters

Next, we will practice **writing** each of the sounds. Get your paper and writing tools ready.



Video: Letter Formation of letters l,
w, y, z



Forming: l, w, y, z

<http://j.mp/writeLWYZ>

Writing / Building words

Let's build some words using these sounds. We will use and display **all** of our sounds.

Additional Word List.

You can build these words too:

let, yet, zip, zap, lip

Video: Writing words / word building using l, w, y, z



Word building, word guess game and making nonsense words.

<http://j.mp/wordsLWYZ>

Reading simple 3 letter words

We will **read** words with our final additions. Time to **read**, **sound** and **blend** some simple 3 letter words.

Additional Word List.

zap, lap, lad, yes, wet

Video: Using the sounds l, w, y, z to read and blend words



The video demonstrates sounding and blending simple 3 letter words.

<http://j.mp/blendLWYZ>

Additional Activities

As your child develops more confidence with their sounding and blending, you can introduce sentence level activities.

Introducing words within sentences.

Explain to your child that sentences are made by **groups of words**. Write an example sentence for your child.

Eg: 'A bat sat.'

Practice **counting** the 'words' within the sentence, thus teaching your child the difference between sounds and words. Point to each word as you count.

Introducing sentences promotes opportunities to discuss **key words**, **upper case** letters and simple **punctuation**.

When introducing sentences, choose words that contain **sounds you have studied** and words that can be **sounded easily**.

Words like '**at, on, a, it**' are good.
Words like '**the**' and '**was**' are more complex and cannot be sounded easily.
So choose carefully.

Sentence Match

Draw some simple, funny pictures and write simple sentences for your child to **match**. They can cut and stick the sentences to match the picture.

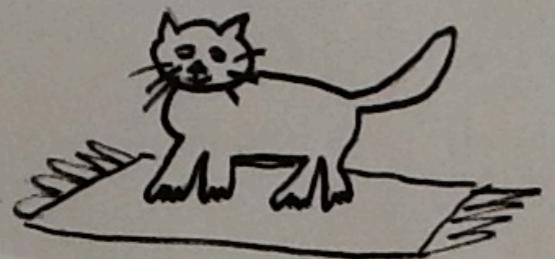
Eg: 'A fat cat.'

See my **example** activity sheet. As you can see, you don't have to be an artist to

make fun activities. Kids love figuring out the sentences. The more **silly**, the better.

Notice that all the words are **simple** and can be **sounded** easily.

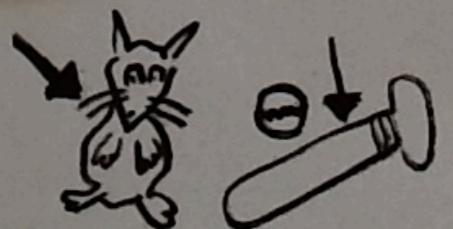
A cat on a mat .



A dog on a hat .



A rat and a bat .



CHAPTER 6

Did you notice?

- The missing sound
- Final words



Which Letter is Missing?

I bet you were wondering if I had forgotten the letter ‘q’. In the early stages of Phonics and thus in this book, we study only **one letter, one sound** examples.

Have you ever seen the letter ‘q’ by itself in a word? The answer is no. It always comes with a partner, the letter u. Thus the sound ‘qu’ as in quake, is represented by **TWO** letters but has only **one**

sound. Just a little one to confuse the little ones.

If your child is curious about the sound ‘qu’, you can use this video to assist your explanation and use of ‘qu’ in words.

Video: Using the sound “qu”



Word building, blending and letter formation and explanation of “qu”.

<http://j.mp/soundQU>

Final Words

I just want to say a big well done and thank you on behalf of your child for **sharing and encouraging** their **Phonics development.**

Phonics is a **fundamental** skill that leads the path for **success** in all areas of your child's education.

Life Long Learning begins with Fun Phonics.

For more fun with Phonics, including links to resources and App ideas just for you, visit teachersuzy.com/phonics

Alliteration

The repetition of a particular sound in a series of words eg: “Peter Piper ate a pear pick-ilng porkie.”

Related Glossary Terms

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[Chapter 2 - Phonics Explained](#)

[Chapter 2 - Phonics Explained](#)

Blend

Term used to describe using the sounds of letters to read a word. You slowly sound out each letter, then blend it by running all the sounds together smoothly to say the whole word.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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Chapter 3 - Exploring s a t p i n

Build words

Build words or word building is a term used to describe the **putting together** of sounds to **make words**. It is another way of saying ‘spelling’. Build is a more fun and accurate term that kids enjoy. They gain a sense and understanding of **piecing** something together, like using blocks to build an object. In this case they use sounds / letters to build a word.

Related Glossary Terms

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CVC words

Words that are made from using a consonant, a middle vowel and another consonant in that order.

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Key words

Words that are common in the English language which your child should eventually be able to read automatically. eg: on, a, the etc.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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Chapter 5 - Exploring 'l w y z'

Linguistic Phonics

The central rationale of Linguistic Phonics is that children understand the relationship between their spoken language and the written word.

Related Glossary Terms

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Chapter 2 - Phonics Explained

Phonics

An understanding that the sounds we make are represented by letters.

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[Chapter 2 - Phonics Explained](#)

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Sound square

A piece of paper cut into a square and labelled with a letter / sound. They can be used for word games and building words.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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Chapter 3 - Exploring s a t p i n