

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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Category	Phonics	Title	Phonics Book 10 – The Best Spot
Ages	4-7	Theme	Consonant Blend Words — Beginning and Ending Blends

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

In this book, children take the next big step in phonics — learning to read words with consonant blends. Through 14 picture sets showing whether something is in the wrong spot or the best spot, children discover how two consonant sounds come together smoothly before and after short vowels.

Beginning blends — such as bl, cr, tr, and spr — and ending blends — such as nd, nk, and ft — open up a whole new world of words. This book builds directly on the CVC foundations from Books 3 to 9, helping children read longer, more complex words with growing confidence and fluency.

TARGET BLENDS

Beginning Blends	Ending Blends
bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr, sc, sk, sl, sm, sn, st, sw, scr, spr	ld, lf, lk, ft, nd, nk, nt, pt

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Identify and produce beginning consonant blends — bl, cl, fl, gl, pl, cr, dr, fr, gr, pr, tr, sc, sk, sl, sm, sn, st, sw, scr, spr
- Identify and produce ending consonant blends — ld, lf, lk, ft, nd, nk, nt, pt
- Decode blend words by building from the short vowel outward
- Read simple sentences containing blend words with growing fluency
- Recognise and read common sight words — a, an, the, for, to, of, on

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Review consonant sounds with the Alphabet Houses

Before starting the book, make sure your child knows all 21 individual consonant sounds. Introduce blends playfully using the Alphabet House idea — for example: 'C is in Cup House and L is in Lamp House, so together they live in the CupLamp House and make the /kl/ sound!' This playful approach helps children understand how consonant sounds combine in twos, threes, or even fours.

2. Decode blend words from the vowel outward

Teach your child to decode blend words by starting from the short vowel and building outward. For a beginning blend word like 'frog': say '/og/' first, then add 'r' to make '/rog/', then add 'f' to make 'frog'. For an ending blend word like 'pond': say '/on/' first, then add 'd' to make '/ond/', then add 'p' to make 'pond'. This systematic approach makes even complex blend words feel manageable.

3. Decode each sentence patiently

Be patient as your child sounds out each blend word. Blend words require more processing than simple CVC words, so allow extra time. Celebrate every word decoded successfully and remind your child that blend words are a new challenge — it is perfectly normal to go slowly at first.

4. Help with sight words

This book contains several high-frequency sight words that cannot be decoded using phonics rules: a, an, the, for, to, of, and on. When your child hesitates at these words, simply say the word for them. These are among the most common words in English and will become automatic with repeated reading over time.

5. Point to pictures and connect meaning

After each page, use the pictures to help your child understand whether something is in the wrong spot or the best spot. Ask: 'Is this the right place for it?' and 'Where should it go?' This connects the blend vocabulary to real meaning and makes reading feel purposeful.

6. Complete the Ladder Game and re-read

Encourage your child to complete the Ladder Game quiz at the end of the book, then re-read the whole story. Each reading will feel smoother and more confident than the last as the blend words become more familiar.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play a Blend Hunt game. Look around the room or outside and challenge your child to find objects whose names contain a blend — for example: a clock (cl), a tree (tr), a frog (fr), a stamp (st). Say each word slowly and ask: 'Can you hear two consonant sounds right next to each other?' Make a list together and see how many blend words you can find in one minute!

Try the fun online learning activities for this book on our website!

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TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Consonant blends represent a significant step up in phonics complexity. The key teaching point is that each sound in a blend is still pronounced separately — children should be able to hear both consonants, just very quickly together. The CupLamp House analogy is a wonderfully creative way to introduce this concept and connects beautifully to the Alphabet House system from previous books. The 'decode from the vowel outward' strategy is particularly effective for ending blends, which many children find harder than beginning blends. The seven sight words in this book — a, an, the, for, to, of, on — are some of the most frequent words in English, so treat them as valuable vocabulary worth pointing out explicitly.