

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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<b>Category</b>	Phonics	<b>Title</b>	Phonics Book 16 – I Am Not a Little Girl Anymore!
<b>Ages</b>	4-7	<b>Theme</b>	R-Controlled Vowels in a Story Context — ar, or, er, ir, ur

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

Building on Book 15, this book takes children deeper into R-controlled vowels through a heartwarming story. A little girl helps the people and animals she loves — her grandpa, grandma, dog, cat, and baby sister — by doing her very best. As she moves through her day, children encounter a rich range of R-controlled words in natural, meaningful sentences.

This book features a much larger and more varied set of R-controlled words than Book 15, giving children the extended practice they need to build real confidence and fluency. As with Book 15, er, ir, and ur are especially tricky for ESL learners — please spend extra time on these patterns and encourage repeated reading.

## R-CONTROLLED WORD GROUPS

Pattern	Word Cards	Decoding example
<b>ar</b>	barn, card, artist, Parker	Read 'b' + 'arn' = barn
<b>or</b>	corn, fork, order, tractor, work, anymore, color	Read 'tract' + 'or' = tractor
<b>er</b>	farmer, better, center, dinner, letter, forget, serve, butter, sister, water	Read 'farm' + 'er' = farmer
<b>ir</b>	girl, bird	Read 'g' + 'irl' = girl
<b>ur</b>	nurse, Summer, turkeys, Tiger, her	Read 'n' + 'urse' = nurse

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Confidently recognise and read all five R-controlled patterns — ar, or, er, ir, ur
- Decode longer R-controlled words by identifying the vowel + r pattern and building outward
- Read R-controlled words fluently in a connected story context
- Understand that er, ir, and ur all make the same /ur/ sound despite different spellings
- Complete a word search and speed game using R-controlled words

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Review R-controlled sounds with flashcards

Before reading, review the five R-controlled patterns from Book 15 using flashcards: ar, or, er, ir, ur. Remind your child of the three key sounds: ar = /ar/, or = /or/, and er/ir/ur = /ur/. Ask: 'Which three patterns all make the same sound?' This quick review activates prior knowledge and prepares children for the richer vocabulary in this book.

## 2. Mark R-controlled words before reading

Before reading each page, ask your child to look through the text and mark all R-controlled words. Ask: 'Which vowel comes before the r?' Use the word groups table above to check — there are many more words here than in Book 15, so active marking before reading is especially important.

## 3. Decode words without the R-controlled part first

Help your child decode each R-controlled word by reading the non-R part first, then adding the R-controlled sound. For example: read 'tract' first, then add 'or' to make 'tractor'. Read 'g' first, then add 'irl' to make 'girl'. Read 'farm' first, then add 'er' to make 'farmer'. This strategy makes even longer R-controlled words feel manageable.

## 4. Group flashcards by pattern and play the Speed Game

Make word cards for all the R-controlled words in the book and group them by pattern — ar, or, er, ir, ur. Play the flashcard game with one group at a time first, then mix all groups together. Time how fast your child can read through all the cards and celebrate every personal best!

## 5. Complete the word search

Find all the R-controlled words in the word search at the back of the book and practise saying each one aloud. Then try the Speed Game with the full word list. Give a big cheer for every improvement!

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play an R-Controlled Story Game. Ask your child to tell you about their own day — what did they do to help someone? Encourage them to use as many R-controlled words as possible in their telling. Write down every R-controlled word they use naturally in conversation. This activity connects phonics to real spoken English and shows children how R-controlled words are used constantly in everyday life.

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

[Click here to try the online learning activities](#)

## TEACHER'S NOTES AND TIPS

Book 16 significantly expands the range of R-controlled vocabulary from Book 15 — children encounter words across all five patterns in a rich story context. The word groups table above is a valuable planning tool: sorting the 28 words by pattern before the lesson helps teachers target specific sounds that need extra attention. Note that several words — such as 'work', 'color', and 'Summer' — have R-controlled vowels in less obvious positions, which makes this book a genuine step up from Book 15. The heartwarming theme of a child helping her family creates natural emotional engagement that motivates reading and makes the vocabulary feel personally meaningful.