

# LESSON PLAN GUIDE

PictureBook English Reading Series — Phonics

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<b>Category</b>	Phonics	<b>Title</b>	Phonics Book 2 – The First Sound Tree
<b>Ages</b>	4-7	<b>Theme</b>	20 Initial Consonant Sounds + Short Vowels

## INTRODUCTION OF THE BOOK

Building on Phonics Book 1, which introduced 14 final consonant sounds, this book now brings those same consonants to the beginning of words. Each initial consonant is paired with a short vowel sound, helping children take the important next step in phonics — hearing and identifying sounds at the start of words.

Because initial consonants are paired with short vowel sounds, this can be a little tricky for young learners. Take your time, repeat each sound slowly, and use the pictures to help. With patience and practice, children will build strong confidence and accuracy in recognising initial consonant sounds.

## TARGET SOUNDS

#	House Name	Example	#	House Name	Example	Note
<b>b</b>	Bell House	bed	<b>n</b>	Neon House	net	
<b>c</b>	Cup House	can	<b>p</b>	Piano House	pot	
<b>d</b>	Doughnut House	dog	<b>qu</b>	Queen House	quiz	
<b>f</b>	Fan House	fox	<b>r</b>	Robot House	rat	
<b>g</b>	Gum House	gum	<b>s</b>	Star House	six	
<b>h</b>	Hat House	hat	<b>t</b>	Tire House	ten	
<b>j</b>	Jam House	jug	<b>v</b>	Video Game House	van	
<b>k</b>	Key House	kid	<b>w</b>	Wing House	web	
<b>l</b>	Lamp House	log	<b>y</b>		yes	
<b>m</b>	Milk House	map	<b>z</b>	Zipper House	zip	<i>x has no initial /ks/ sound in this book</i>

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will be able to:

- Recognise and name 20 initial consonant letters and their sounds
- Hear and identify the initial consonant sound in a spoken word
- Match a word's beginning sound to the correct letter on the First Sound Tree
- Associate each consonant letter with its house name as a memory aid

- Understand that x does not have a typical initial sound in English words

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Review the letters on the First Sound Tree

Go through each of the 20 consonant letters on the leaves of the tree together — b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, qu, r, s, t, v, w, y, z. Take time with each one and check your child can recognise and name every letter confidently before starting the exercises.

### 2. Recall the house names

Ask your child if they can remember where each letter lives. Go through the house names together using the reference table above. If your child finds any letter difficult to remember, spend extra time on those before continuing. Alphabet Books 1, 2, and 3 are a helpful resource for review.

### 3. Listen and find the first sound

Work through the 20 sets of exercises together. For each picture, say the word without the first consonant first — for example, 'ed' — then say the whole word: 'bed.' Ask your child to listen carefully and find the correct letter on the First Sound Tree. Go slowly and repeat as many times as needed. Pointing to the picture while saying the word helps children connect the sound to its meaning.

### 4. Note about the letter x

In this book, x does not appear as an initial sound. Explain to your child that x is special — it says goodbye at the beginning of words because the sound /ks/ is not used to start English words in the same way. This is a fun and memorable way to introduce this exception without confusing children.

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Play a First Sound sorting game. Say five words aloud and ask your child to tell you the very first sound they hear in each one. Then challenge them to think of a word that starts with a given letter — for example: 'Can you think of a word that starts with the m sound?' For an extra challenge, ask them to say the word without the first sound, then with it — just like the exercises in the book. This builds phonemic awareness and prepares children for blending in later phonics books.

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

Initial consonant sounds are generally easier for children to identify than final sounds, but the pairing with short vowels in this book adds an extra layer of complexity. When modelling each word, say it in two parts — the vowel sound first, then the full word — to help children isolate the initial consonant clearly. For children who find the short vowel sounds tricky, focus on the consonant sound alone first before blending it with the vowel. Ensure children are fully confident with all 20 initial sounds before moving on to the next phonics book.