

Story Time and Reading at Hurst Green Primary School



Story Time in Reception

What Story Time Looks Like at Hurst Green Primary

- **Daily sessions** where children enjoy listening to engaging stories.
- **Teachers read aloud with expression**, bringing characters and events to life.
- **Opportunities to talk about stories** – predicting outcomes, sharing ideas, and retelling events.
- **Active participation** as children act out or illustrate parts of the story.
- **Stories connect to wider learning** through role-play, writing, and other classroom activities.

How Does Story Time Support Reading?

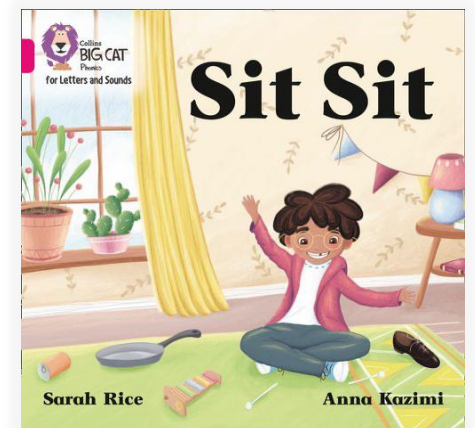
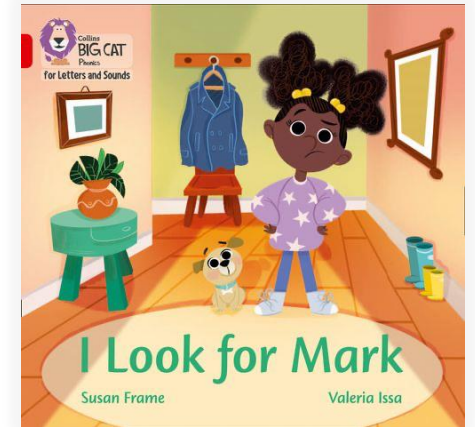


- **Builds Vocabulary** – Children learn new words to understand and use in their own language.
- **Develops Comprehension** – Talking about stories helps children make sense of what they hear.
- **Strengthens Listening Skills** – Focused listening builds the attention needed for reading.
- **Introduces Story Structure** – Recognising beginnings, middles, and endings supports narrative understanding.
- **Connects Spoken & Written Language** – Hearing words in context helps with phonics and decoding.

• **Encourages a Love of Reading** – Enjoyable experiences inspire

How Do We Practice Reading?

- **Daily phonics sessions** build early reading skills.
- **Reading practice sessions** take place weekly (once baseline assessments are complete).
- Sessions are:
 - taught by a trained member of staff
 - delivered in small groups
- Each book is first read with your child in school before being sent home.
- When a book is sent home, your child should be able to read most of the words correctly, helping build confidence and fluency.



How do we find the right book for your child?

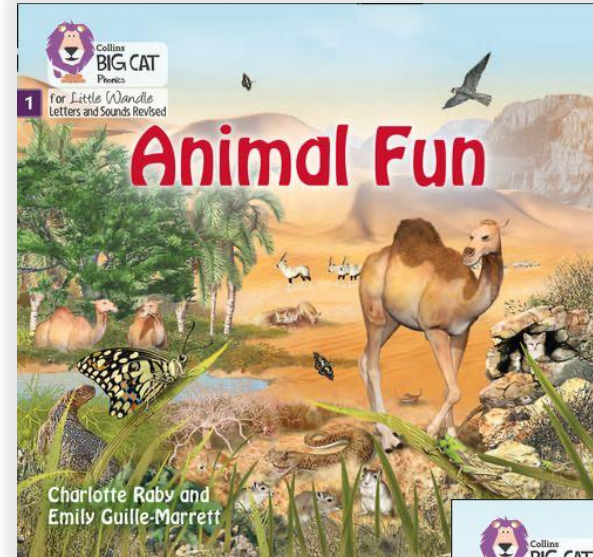


Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Reception Child assessment

Autumn 1

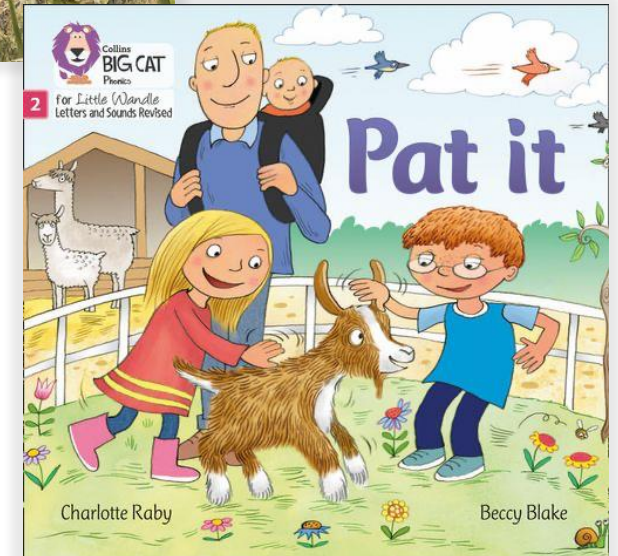
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Wordless
books

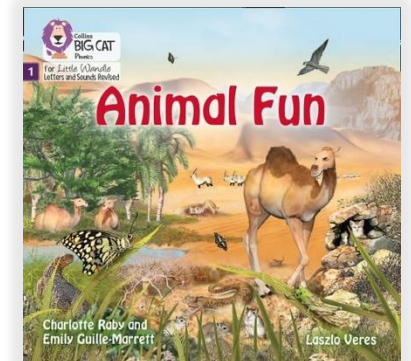
Phonics
books



Wordless books



- **Wordless Books – Building Foundational Skills**
- **Phonemic Awareness** – Developing sound knowledge, hearing initial sounds, and blending sounds.
- **Book Behaviours** – Understanding that print carries meaning and that we read from left to right.
- **Bringing the Book to Life** – Giving context, relating stories to real-life experiences, and introducing new vocabulary.



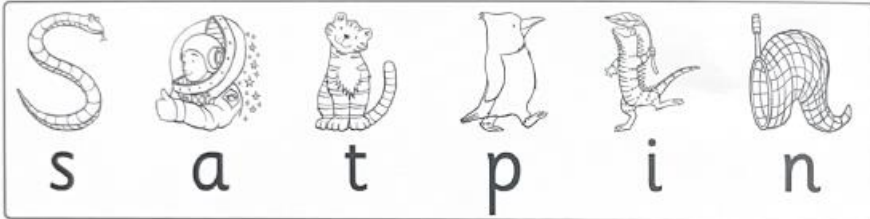
Inside of book gives guidance on how to support reading

🐾 Before reading 🐾

Practising phonics: Phase 2, Set 1

Read the graphemes

- Ask the children to read as you point to the graphemes in any order.



How to use this blending practice book

Blend, find and check

- Ask the children to:
 - sound out each word and blend
 - find the image that matches the word or phrase in the picture
 - check their answer by turning the page to see the image
 - read the word or phrase again.
- Read the book again, encouraging the children to focus on reading fluently.

Reading at home

This book has been chosen for your child to read at home. They should be able to read it without your help. Listen to your child read. Celebrate their success and talk about the book together. If they can't read a word, read it to them. You can find out more about how to support your child to learn to read at www.LittleWandleLettersAndSounds.org.uk

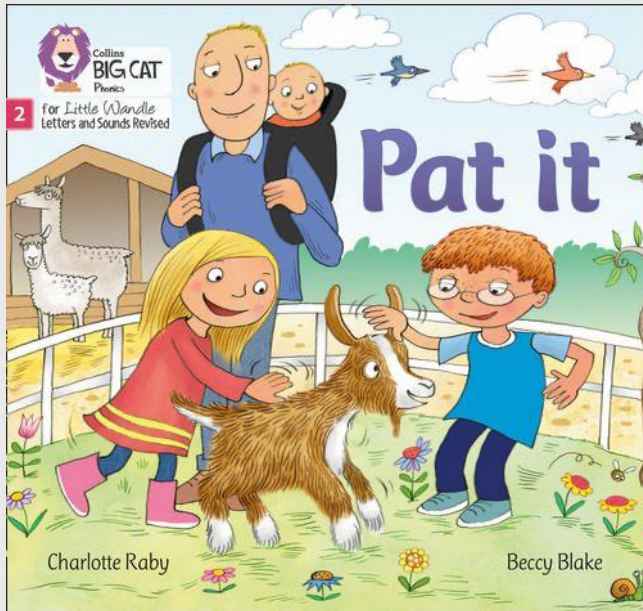


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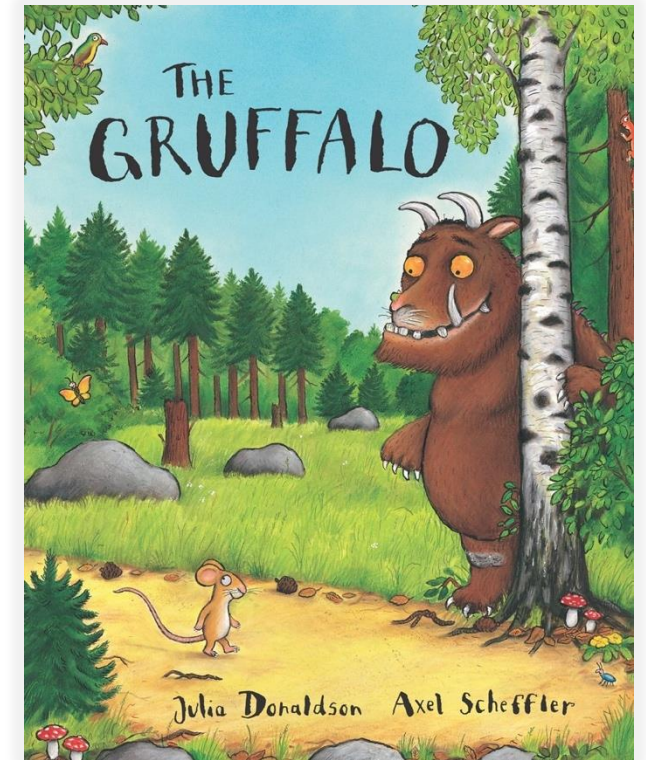


Reading at home

Books going home



Little Wandle
Reading book

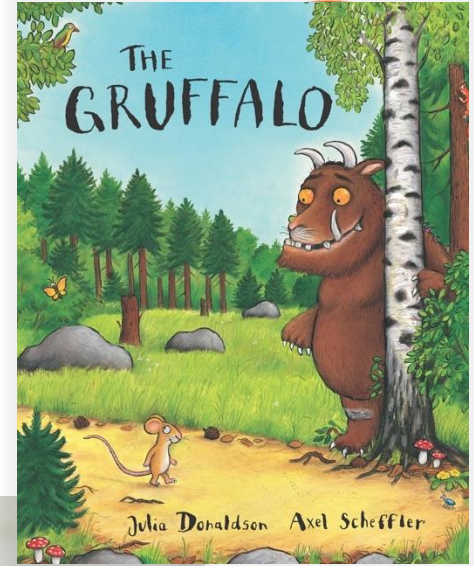


Sharing Book

Read to your child

The shared book is for **you** to read to your child:

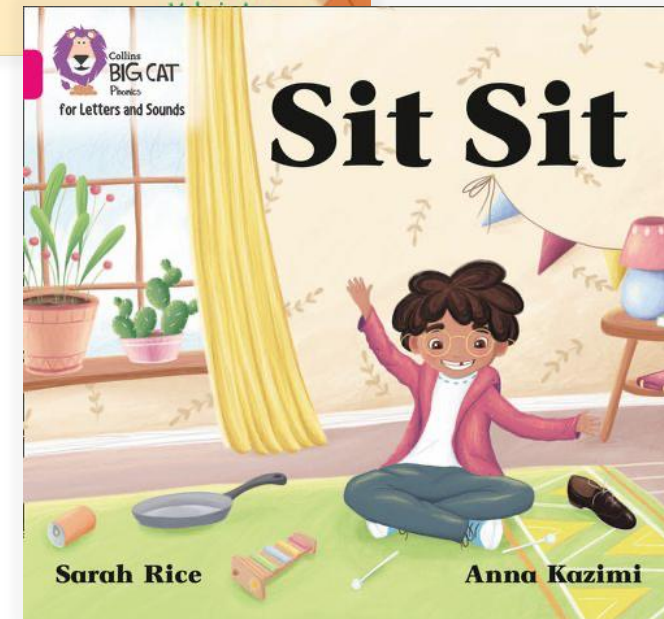
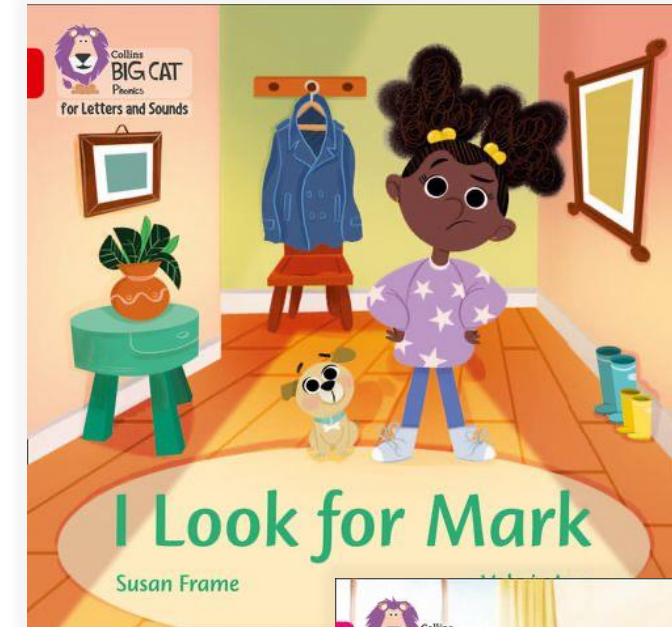
- Make the story exciting by changing your voice.
- Talk together as much as possible.
- Introduce new and interesting language.
- Encourage your child to use new vocabulary.



Listening to your child read their phonics book



- Your child should be able to read their phonics book with little help.
- They may need to **sound out** words and **blend the sounds** before reading fluently.
- If they get stuck on a word, simply read it to them.
- Talk about the book together and celebrate their success.
- Encourage your child to point to each word as they read and to turn the pages



Blending to read words



Some children learn to blend really quickly, and others take a little longer. If your child is finding it difficult, ask your child's teacher for ways to help at home – playing blending games at home is so helpful!

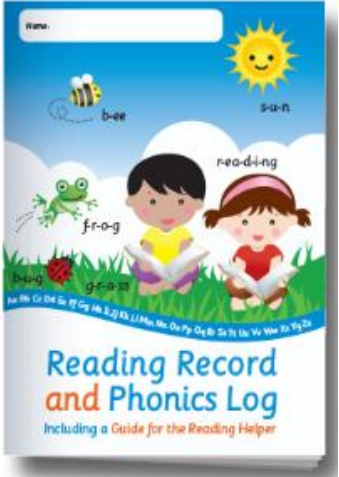
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Reading at home



What Should Be in Your Child’s Book Bag?

- **Reading diary** – please sign or add a comment each time your child reads at home.
- **Reading book(s)** – kept safely in your child’s reading wallet.
- **Adults check diaries weekly** to see reading progress and comments.



Date, book and page number	Comments