

Learning the 'sounds' of letters.

Here are the actions we use to teach the sounds.

- s** Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say **ssssss**
- a** Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you and say **a, a, a.**
- t** Turn head from side to side as if watching tennis and say **t, t, t.**
- i** Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling fingers at end of nose and squeak **i, i, i.**
- p** Pretend to puff out candles and say **p, p, p.**
- n** Make a noise, as if you are a plane - hold arms out and say **nnnnnn.**
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- c k** Raise hands and snap fingers as if playing castanets and say **ck, ck, ck.**
- e** Pretend to tap an egg on the side of a pan and crack it into the pan, saying **eh, eh, eh.**
- h** Hold hand in front of mouth panting as if you are out of breath and say **h, h, h.**
- r** Pretend to be a puppy holding a piece of rag, shaking head from side to side, and say **rrrrrr.**
- m** Rub tummy as if seeing tasty food and say **mmmmmm.**
- d** Beat hands up and down as if playing a drum and say **d, d, d.**
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- g** Spiral hand down, as if water going down the drain, and say **g, g, g.**
- o** Pretend to turn light switch on and off and say **o, o; o, o**
- u** Pretend to be putting up an umbrella and say **u, u, u.**
- l** Pretend to lick a lollipop and say **l l l l l.**
- f** Let hands gently come together as if toy fish deflating, and say **f f f f f.**
- b** Pretend to hit a ball with a bat and say **b, b, b.**
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- ai** Cup hand over ear and say **ai, ai, ai.**
- j** Pretend to wobble on a plate and say **j, j, j.**
- oa** Bring hand over mouth as if you have done something wrong and say **oh!**
- ie** Stand to attention and salute, saying **ie ie.**
- ee or** Put hands on head as if ears on a donkey and say **eeyore, eeyore.**
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- z** Put arms out at sides and pretend to be a bee, saying **zzzzzz.**
- w** Blow on to open hand, as if you are the wind, and say **wh, wh, wh.**
- ng** Imagine you are a weightlifter, and pretend to lift a heavy weight above your head, saying **ng...**
- v** Pretend to be holding the steering wheel of a van and say **vvvvvv.**
- oo** Move head back and forth as if it is the cuckoo in a cuckoo clock, saying **u,oo; u,oo** (Little and long **oo.**)
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- y** Pretend to be eating a yogurt and say **y, y, y.**
- x** Pretend to take an x-ray of someone with an x-ray gun and say **ks, ks, ks.**
- ch** Move arms at sides as if you are a train and say **ch, ch, ch.**
- sh** Place index finger over lips and say **shshsh.**
- th th** Pretend to be naughty clowns and stick out tongue a little for the **th**, and further for the **th** sound (**th**is and **th**umb).
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- qu** Make a duck's beak with your hands and say **qu, qu, qu.**
- ou** Pretend your finger is a needle and prick thumb saying **ou, ou, ou.**
- oi** Cup hands around mouth and shout to another boat saying **oi! ship ahoy!**
- ue** Point to people around you and say **you, you, you.**
- er** Roll hands over each other like a mixer and say **ererer.**
- ar** Open mouth wide and say **ah.** (UK English) Flap hands as if a seal, and say **ar, ar, ar.** (US English)

Once you have mastered these sounds you will be able to blend letters together to form words and with plenty of practice fluent reading will begin!