

SENTENCES

Phonics learning opportunities

To practise reading sentences.

Organisation

Whole class, small group or 1:1.

Teaching ideas

Click **Show** to reveal a sentence and ask the children to read the sentence. You can click on **Hide** to hide the sentence again. Read the sentence in a variety of ways:

Modelling - Model reading the sentence. Pretend to get stuck on a word which relates to the learning objective. Soundtalk this word and blend it to work out what it says. Reread the sentence from the start again. Model thinking about the sentence and asking yourself if it makes sense.

Pairs - Ask children to work in pairs to read the sentence to one another and to give you a thumbs up when they have worked it out. Encourage them to think about whether it makes sense. Ask the whole class to read it out loud. If the sentence is a question, discuss what the answer could be.

Individuals - Ask all children to work out what the sentence says silently, in their heads. Give the children time and ask them to give you a thumbs up when they have worked it out. Read the sentence out loud as a class. Discuss what the sentence means and answer it if it is a question.

Writing Sentences

You can also use these sentences to help practise writing sentences. The children will need whiteboards or paper. Do not reveal the sentence to the children. Read the sentence aloud - you will find them on the daily plans. Ask the children to write the sentence on their whiteboards. Click on show and let the children check their own sentences. You will probably want to focus on certain words. Point to and say each letter in the word and ask the children to tick each letter that they got right and correct any mistakes that they have made.

It is important that you sometimes model writing these sentences. Talk through your thought processes and model carefully segmenting particular words and thinking about how to choose the right grapheme for each phoneme.

At times you may want children to write the sentences independently. At other times it may be helpful to get children writing sentences with a partner and talking thoughtfully about the choices they are making.

Top tips

Try to find time in every phonics session for reading or writing sentences.

Train children to use the techniques they have learned in phonics sessions (blending, segmenting, alternative pronunciations etc) when reading or writing sentences. If you don't train the children, they are likely to use guessing as their method of choice for unfamiliar words.

Have very clear expectations that the children will use the skills they develop in the applying part of the phonics session whenever they read (or write) sentences in all curriculum areas.