

Phonics and early decoding / Activity 3

A short-o word path

Blend known correspondences accurately and check the whole word.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Word bank - read the words

dog	dig	cot
cat	got	kid

An adult reads the instructions. Use only correspondences already taught.

1. Read all six words.

2. Put dog, cot and got in the short-o group. Put dig, cat and kid in the other group. Read to check.

3. Without looking, build dog and cot from spoken sounds.

You may respond by talking, pointing, drawing, writing or using your usual communication tools.

Adult teaching notes

A short-o word path / Phonics and early decoding

Required correspondences

s a t p i n m d o g c k

Words needing separate teaching

None in the word bank.

Single letters use common consonant sounds and short vowels: a as in sat, i as in sit, o as in cot, e as in hen, u as in hut. Both c and k represent /k/. Follow the school phonics programme's pronunciation. Local vowels vary; song and long may have a different vowel from cot in US accents. /sh/, /ch/ and /ng/ are plain-language sound labels. Do not guess from pictures or context.

Prepare and model

Read dog as d-o-g. Keep the short vowel; do not use the first letter to guess.

Teach, practise, check

1. Review the listed correspondences using the school programme's pronunciation and prompts.
2. Model one item. Read together, then let each learner try a different item without copying a peer.
3. Return to one missed correspondence or blend. Revisit two words after a short unrelated turn.

Answers / acceptable responses

1. dog, dig, cot, cat, got, kid.
2. Short o: dog, cot, got. Other vowels: dig, cat, kid.
3. dog = d-o-g; cot = c-o-t. Accept the learner's local short-o vowel.

Support

Use a smaller set of three words and movable letters. Reveal one word at a time; allow pointing. Do not require handwriting to show decoding.

Extend and transfer

Ask the learner to build one new real word using only already-taught correspondences, then read it to a partner. Check that it is a real word in the local variety of English.

Observe and revisit

Record the exact word, correspondence or blend that needed help, plus a later independent reading. Accuracy and self-correction matter more than speed.