

Teacher's Guide



Pirates Reading Adventure

*How To Make Learning To Read Fun For Every Child In
The Early Years*



Pirates

Reading Adventure

*How To Make Learning To Read Fun For Every Child In
The Early Years*

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Introduction

Dear dedicated teacher,

Congratulations for joining the Wiggly Readers Club and welcome aboard!

I'm excited to say that you're one of the lucky teachers to be holding this magic 'key' in your hands - a book bursting with creative reading resources so that you can use easily to unlock jaw-dropping progress for every little reader in your class, even the ones who struggle or show little interest in wanting to read at school or at home.

As a teacher myself with over 10 years experience in Early Years and Key Stage One education, I know how important it is to teach phonics from a young age so that children can develop their letter and word recognition, comprehension skills, fluency and confidence in reading. I also know how important it is to make this as fun, play-based and enjoyable as possible so that children can reach life's ultimate reading goal: to choose to read for pleasure and find reading **fun**.

The practical activities I'm going to share with you will change the attitude that your children and their parents have towards reading, creating so many happy memories together along the way. By following my tried and tested strategy, you'll be able to help each and every child in your class, not only to read, but to **love** to read.

I can't wait for your children to get started!

Hannah Angrave

Founder of Wiggly Readers

How It Works

1. Say Hello To Captain Crossbones!

Inside the box is a greedy pirate called Captain Crossbones who wants to keep all the treasure for himself.

The hand puppet is specifically designed to be used as a teaching prop at the beginning of the session to engage with the children, capture their imagination and promote speaking and listening skills.



2. Story Time

Captain Crossbones has come to your school to deliver a shiny golden envelope. It contains an urgent letter for you to read out loud, either in a small group or 1:1. It tells the children all about his naughty plan which helps to set the theme for the learning and sparks their interest and imagination for the Reading Adventure ahead.



There's even a drawstring bag of storytelling props, including a shiny golden coin, a lucky parrot feather and a magical key.



Story Questions

- *Who were the main characters in the story?*
- *What was the setting of the story?*
- *What games did some of the characters like to play in the ocean?*
- *Why did the pirates capture Cherry the Mermaid?*
- *What would happen if a bad pirate opened the treasure chest?*

3. Play The Game

Now that the children (and maybe the grown ups too!) are all dressed up, it's time to play the board game to see who will reach the treasure chest first. As you race your counters around the islands, your children will practise their reading skills along the way.

Game Instructions

1. Place the cards on the rectangle in the middle of the board, with the treasure chest facing up so they can't see what the next word is going to be (it's much more fun when it's a surprise!)
2. Choose your character game piece and put it on the 'start' stepping stone.
3. Take it in turns to roll the dice and move your character forwards the correct number of places. Then pick up a card from the middle of the board and encourage the child to read it using their phonics strategies. When they have read the word or sentence, place it at the bottom of the pile of cards and let the next player have a go.
4. The first person to reach the treasure chest on the 'finish' stone is the winner.



If an adult picks up a word card, get the child to guess what it is with some simple clues (e.g. "it rhymes with 'wig' and begins with the letter b"). Or you could orally sound it out (e.g. "b-i-g") and let your child figure out what the word is. This will keep them engaged and joining in, even when it's not their turn.

There are 3 different levels of word cards so you will need to choose which one matches your children's reading ability.

Take a look at the coloured boxes below to help you decide which level is right for your child or group.

1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Beginning to learn to read✓ Letter recognition✓ Reading simple words and short sentences✓ Pink banded books✓ Working within phase 1 or 2 phonics taught in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Secure at reading pink cards in Level 1✓ Vowel digraph recognition (e.g. sh, ai, ee)✓ Reading longer words and sentences✓ Red banded books✓ Working within phase 3 phonics taught in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reading with increased fluency and expression✓ Complex words and sentences to develop comprehension skills✓ Yellow banded books or higher✓ Working within phase 4 phonics taught in schools

Here are a few examples of the learning included in each level.



It's important to work at the right level in order to consolidate existing phonic knowledge, give them an appropriate challenge and boost their confidence and enjoyment of reading. But more importantly, the main thing is to have fun and create happy memories of playing and learning together!

Reading Tips & Techniques

Word cards

As you can see, each word has a sound button underneath to help the children split up the individual sounds.

b i g
• • •

b o a t
• — •

Dot = one letter makes one sound

Line = two or more letters go together to make one sound.

Don't forget...

- Encourage the children to pronounce each sound correctly, e.g. for the word sun, they should say the pure sounds 'ssss-u-nnnn' (not 'suh-u-nuh').
- If they are not yet ready to read words, simply focus on letter recognition. You could say the whole word out loud, over emphasising the initial sound and say "what letter can you hear at the beginning? Can you think of other words starting with this letter?"
- Another good technique for beginner readers is to actually sound out the word for them (you say 'ssss-u-nnnn' and they have to say what the whole word is by blending the sounds together). Being able to orally blend sounds in words is extremely important and conquering this sooner rather than later will give your class a head start with their reading.
- To read a word with more syllables, the children need to use the 'chunking' method to break it up into two or more parts. For example...

lightning → **l-igh-t (light)** → **n-i-ng (ning)**

Sentence Cards

There are lots of challenge cards in each level too! Here are a few things to remember when helping the children to read a sentence...

- When they are just starting out, encourage them to point underneath each word as they read the sentence. This helps to keep them focused so they don't miss any words out and eventually they will be able to read just by scanning a line of text with their eyes.
- If they make a few mistakes along the way, it's always a good idea to re-read the sentence again to improve fluency. Repetition is key when it comes to visually remembering how to read words automatically, especially 'tricky words'.
- Check your children's understanding of what they have read. Ask them questions or start a conversation about it so they begin to read for meaning, e.g. 'Have you ever been on a boat?' or 'I wonder where the treasure is hidden'.

4. Reward Reading

Don't forget to reward their brilliant reading at the end with a swashbuckling certificate. You can personalise it by writing their name on the top line, as well as who it's from and the date at the bottom.

There are also some shiny gold coin stickers included to make them feel extra proud of all their hard work. They could even be used as the real treasure at the end of the game, so you could cut them up and place them on the treasure chest on the game board!

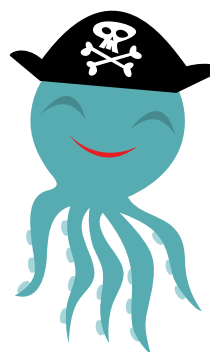
Giving children regular praise will really do wonders for their self confidence and willingness to read.



5. Extend The Learning

The fun doesn't have to stop when the game finishes. This Reading Adventure is full of so many other hands-on activities to make learning to read a happy and memorable experience. Take a look at all the other classroom activities and irresistible home learning challenges on the next pages...

Children will make accelerated progress if they continue to practise reading on a regular basis, at home and at school.




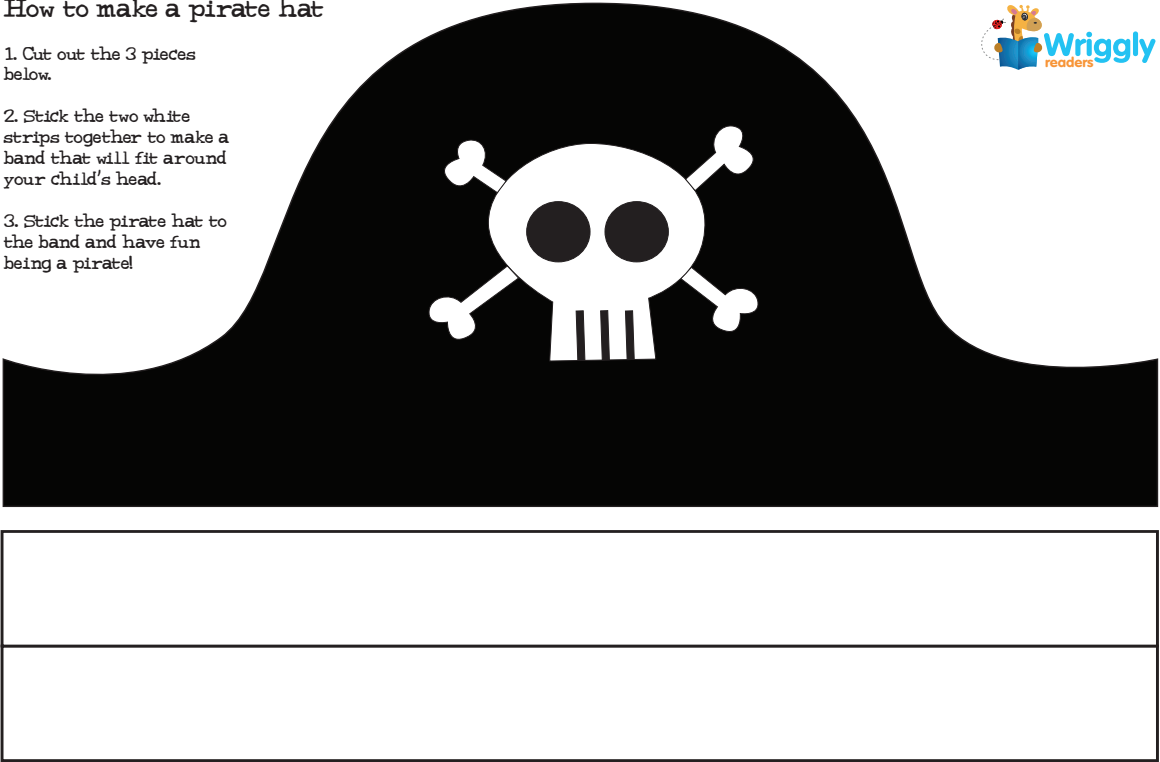
Classroom Resources

Skull And Crossbone Hat

Make a pirate hat! This is a great way to practise cutting skills and the best part is, they'll be able to wear it as soon as they've made it to enhance their play.

How to make a pirate hat

1. Cut out the 3 pieces below.
2. Stick the two white strips together to make a band that will fit around your child's head.
3. Stick the pirate hat to the band and have fun being a pirate!




Activity Type:	Creative
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Fine motor, cutting skills, imaginative play.



You will need:

- Printable 'Skull And Crossbone Hat' template
- Scissors
- Sellotape or glue

Here's one we made earlier!



Swashbuckling Bunting

This colourful bunting is the perfect way to add a bit of pirate magic to your reading corner in the classroom. Or how about hanging it above the construction area to encourage the children to build their own pirate ships?



Activity Type:	Creative
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Fine motor, pencil control cutting skills.

You will need:

- Printable 'Swashbuckling Bunting' sheets
- Colouring crayons or felt tips
- Scissors
- Glue
- Ribbon or string



Colouring Pictures

Children love colouring in, so that's why we've even included some special pictures for them to decorate. If they look closely, they'll see all the characters from the story!



Activity Type:	Creative
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Fine motor skills, communication and language development

Colouring in is a creative way to practise pencil control and hand-eye co-ordination. It's also a calming activity which is great for mindfulness.

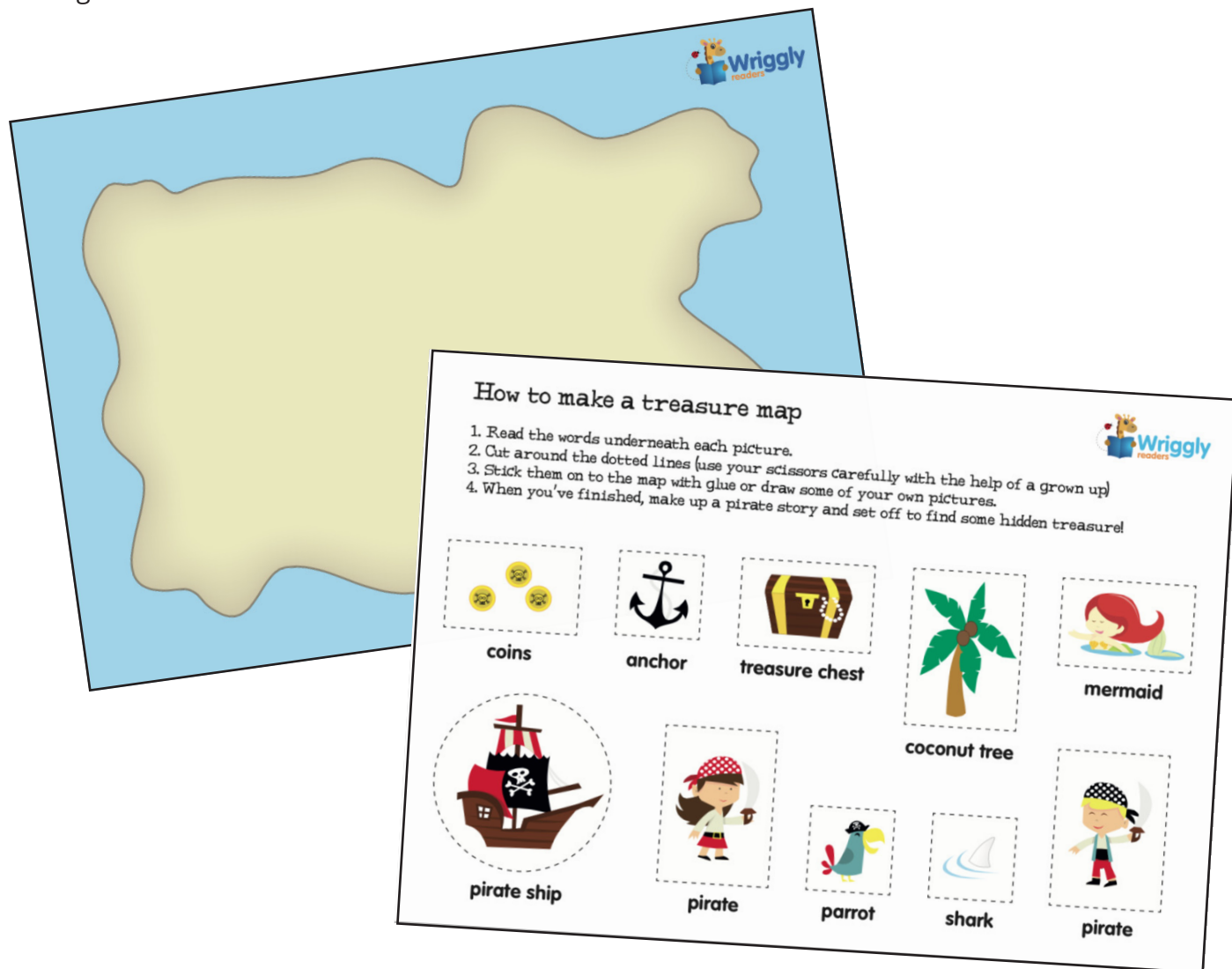
You will need:

- Printable pirate 'Colouring Pictures'
- Pencil crayons or felt tips



Treasure Map

It's time to grab your telescope and head off in search of long-lost treasure! This simple but effective activity allows children to design their very own map by cutting out the pictures and sticking them on, drawing their own or a combination of both. It's the perfect way to improve children's thinking and problem solving skills as they dream up imaginary scenarios with the characters and objects in the setting.



Activity Type:	Creative
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Pencil control, cutting skills, communication and language development

You will need:

- Printable 'Treasure Map' sheets
- Pencils and pencil crayons
- Scissors and glue

Once they have created their work of art, how about challenging them to write their own story about it? Turn to page 28 for inspiration!

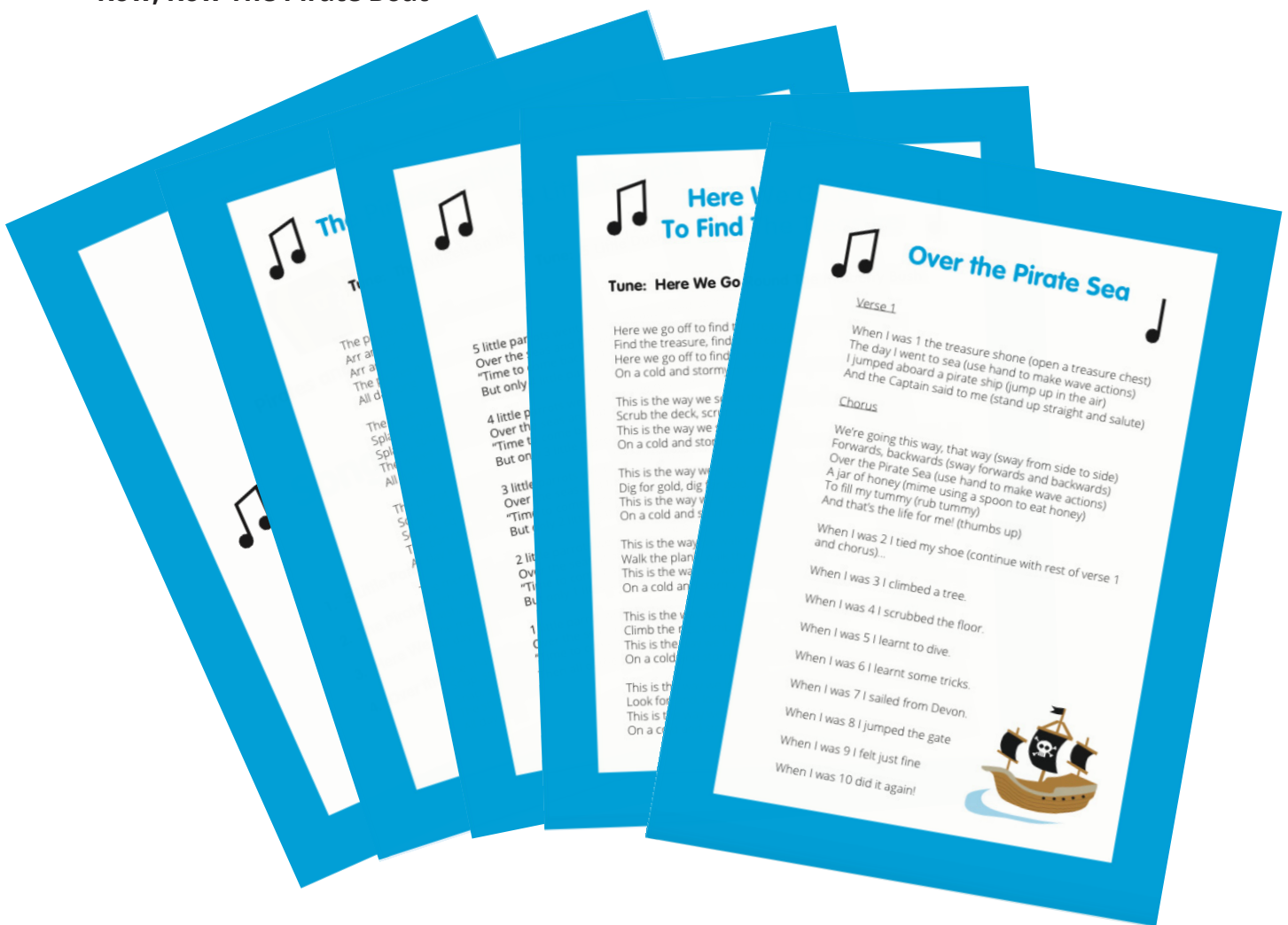


Song Book

Singing does wonders for children’s Literacy skills as they develop an awareness of the sounds in spoken words, such as rhyme and alliteration. So get your singing voices ready and give your class a lifetime love of language with our Pirate Song Book!

There are 5 jolly songs to learn and each one is to the tune of a familiar Nursery Rhyme:

- **5 Little Parrots**
- **The Pirates on the Ship**
- **Here We Go Off to Find the Treasure**
- **Over the Pirate Sea**
- **Row, Row The Pirate Boat**



Activity Type:	Singing
For:	Small group or whole class
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Language skills, speaking and listening skills

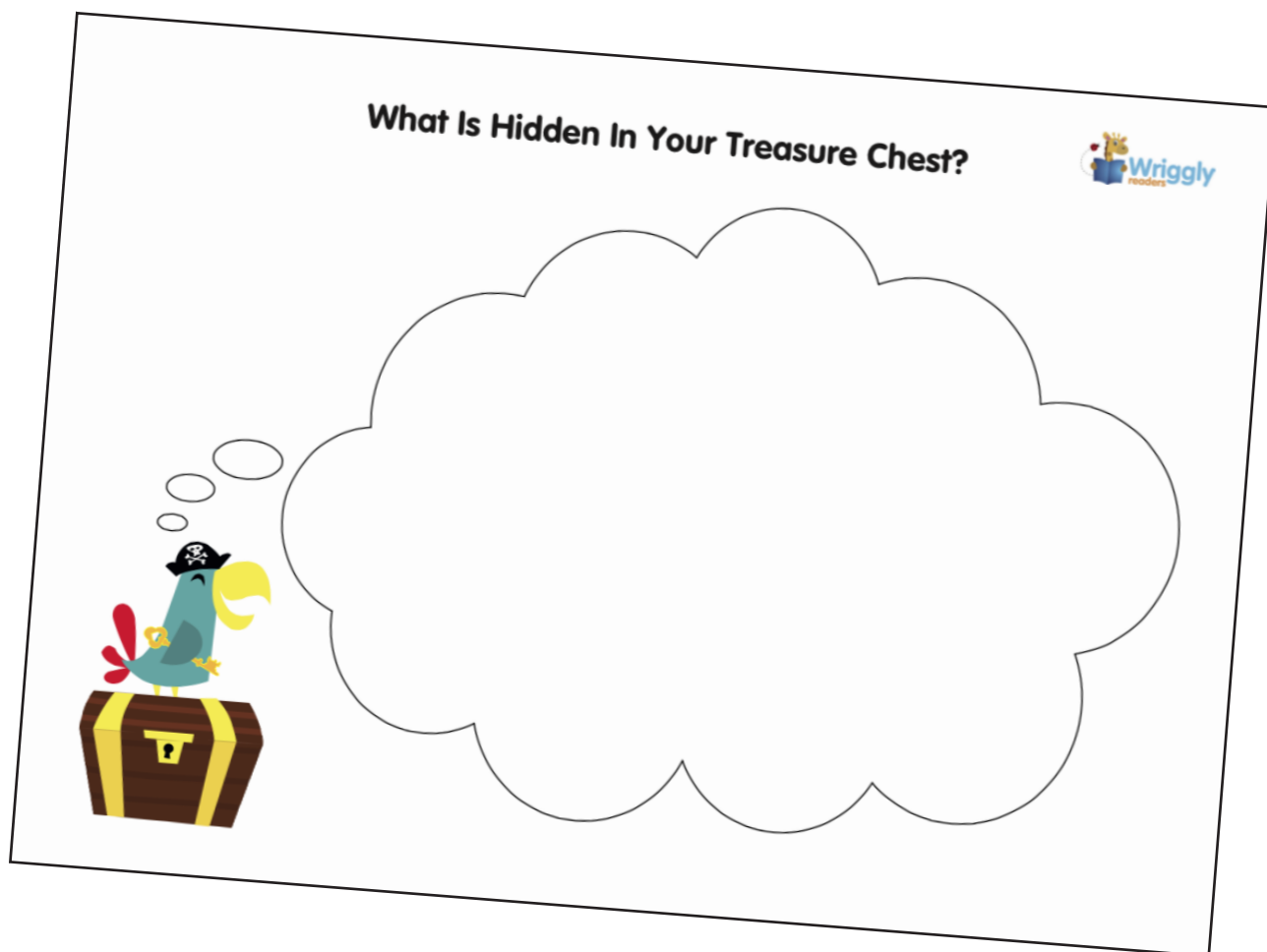
Pssst! Don't forget to learn the actions too or make up some of your own with the children! This will really help them to join in more and maintain their concentration.



Hidden Treasure Activity

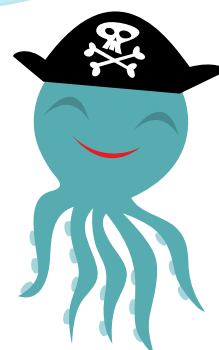
For this creative activity, your little pirates will need to get their thinking caps on!

What would they like to keep safe in their very own treasure chest? The objects could be precious and important to them, things that cost a lot of money or even a top-secret invention!



Activity Type:	Creative
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Approx Time:	15 minutes
Skills:	Pencil control, communication and language development, thinking skills

You could encourage the children to write labels underneath their pictures to help them get better at writing too!



You will need:

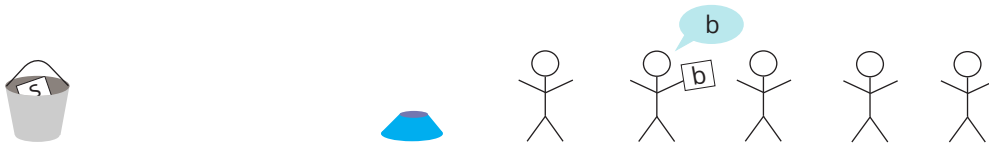
- Printable 'Hidden Treasure' sheet
- Pencils
- Pencil crayons

Pirate Crew Relay

This game is active, competitive and fast-paced... perfect for your 'wiggly readers' who love nothing more than big open spaces to run around in! It's a really fun way to sneak in some extra reading practise while they're playing and having fun, what's not to love about that?

Instructions

1. Login to the member's area and print off the 'Pirate Alphabet Cards' (one set per team). You might want to laminate them to make them more durable.
2. Find a large space to play the game, e.g. in the hall, on the field or playground.
3. Divide the children into equal teams and get each 'pirate crew' standing in a line facing the same direction.
4. Place a cone at the front of each line and a bucket opposite each team with the 'Pirate Alphabet Cards' in the middle.



6. The first child in each line has to run to the bucket, choose a card and run back to their team. The children have to pass the card down the line, each one saying the sound.
7. As soon as the child at the back of the line gets the card, they have to shout out the word (e.g. beard!) and then run to the front of the line where the whole process starts again.
8. The first team to collect the most word cards in 1 minute is the winner!

Activity Type:	Physical
For:	Small group or whole class
Approx Time:	20 minutes
Skills:	Gross motor skills, team work, oral blending, letter and word recognition

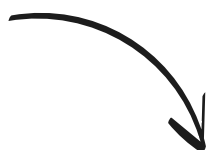
You will need:

- Printable pirate alphabet cards (as shown on page 25)
- Sand timer or stop watch
- 1 bucket per team (e.g. if you split your class into 4 teams, you will need 4 buckets)





By shouting out the whole word at the end of the line, the children will be able to make a link between the word and the initial sound!









Take a closer look at the bright and colourful cards for the relay game!




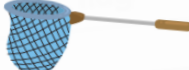




Pirate Alphabet Cards

A a  anchor	B b  beard
C c 	D d 

Pirate Alphabet Cards

G g  gold	H h  hook
I i  island	J j  jewels
K k  key	L l 

Pirate Alphabet Cards

M m  map	N n  net
O o  octopus	P p  parrot
Q q  quest	R r  rope

Pirate Alphabet Cards

S s  skull	T t  telescope
U u  under water	V v  villain
W w  wooden leg	X x  x marks the spot

“Captain’s Coming!” Game

Here’s another exciting reading game for your class that they’ll want to play again and again!

Instructions

1. Login to the member’s area and print off the “Captain’s Coming!” game sheet.
2. Find a large space to play the game, e.g. in the hall, on the field or playground.
3. Divide the children into equal teams and give each child a coloured band (e.g. the red team all wear red bands, the blue team all wear blue bands etc).
4. Read out the pirate commands for children to do the actions to.
5. When the adult shouts “Captain’s Coming!” the children have to find the other members of their team and all line up as quickly as they can behind their coloured cone.
6. The team which lines up the quickest wins a ‘jewel’ (aka a beanbag in their team colour!)


Activity Type:	Physical
For:	Small group or whole class
Approx Time:	20 minutes
Skills:	Gross motor skills, team work, oral blending and segmenting, listening skills

You will need:

- “Captain’s Coming!” game sheet
- Coloured bands (one for each child)
- Coloured cones (one for each team)
- Bean bags

This game helps children to listen to segmented sounds in words and blend them together. They’ll be improving their reading skills without even realising it!




“Captain’s Coming!” Game 

Command	Action
Captain’s coming!	Line up in their team, standing to attention with one hand saluting
Dig in the s - a - n - d	Use shovel to dig in the ground
Walk the p - l - a - n - k	Walk with arms stretched out, one foot in front of the other
Look for l - a - n - d	Look through telescopes
Follow your m - a - p	Walk around holding a map
Jump in the ocean and s - w - i - m	Swim around the room
Watch out for the sh - ar - k	Put one hand on your head like a fin, glide in and out of each other
Do the jellyfish j - u - m - p	Star jumps around the room
Steer the sh - i - p	Sail around the room, turning the wheel
Walk like a c - r - a - b	walk sideways, nipping your fingers together like claws
Wave your f - l - a - g	Hold a flag and wave it above your head, swaying left and right
Oh no! It’s a s - t - or - m	Move around, making rain effect with fingers
Scrub the d - e - ck	Scrubbing action on hands and knees
X marks the s - p - o - t	Spread out arms and legs in a cross shape and stand still
Hop on your wooden l - e - g	Hop up and down on one leg
Climb the l - a - dd - er	Fast climbing action on the spot
Fly like a p - a - rr - o - t	Move arms up and down
Do a jolly j - i - g	Skip around the room













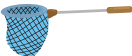









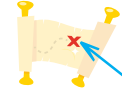
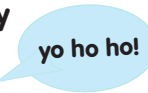

Sounds Mat

Your 'wiggly writers' will love using our Pirate Sounds Mat as a memorable way to hear and say initial sounds in words. Not only that, they can use it as a reference point to form their letters correctly and even use the pictures as inspiration for their own creative writing or conversation starters.

Laminate to make it waterproof for outdoor writing!

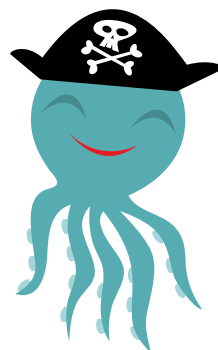


Pirate Sounds Mat

A a 	B b 	C c 	K k ck	D d 	E e 
F f 	G g 	H h 	I i 	J j 	
L l 	M m 	N n 	O o 	P p 	
Q q 	R r 	S s 	T t 	U u 	
V v 	W w 	X x 	Y y 	Z z 	

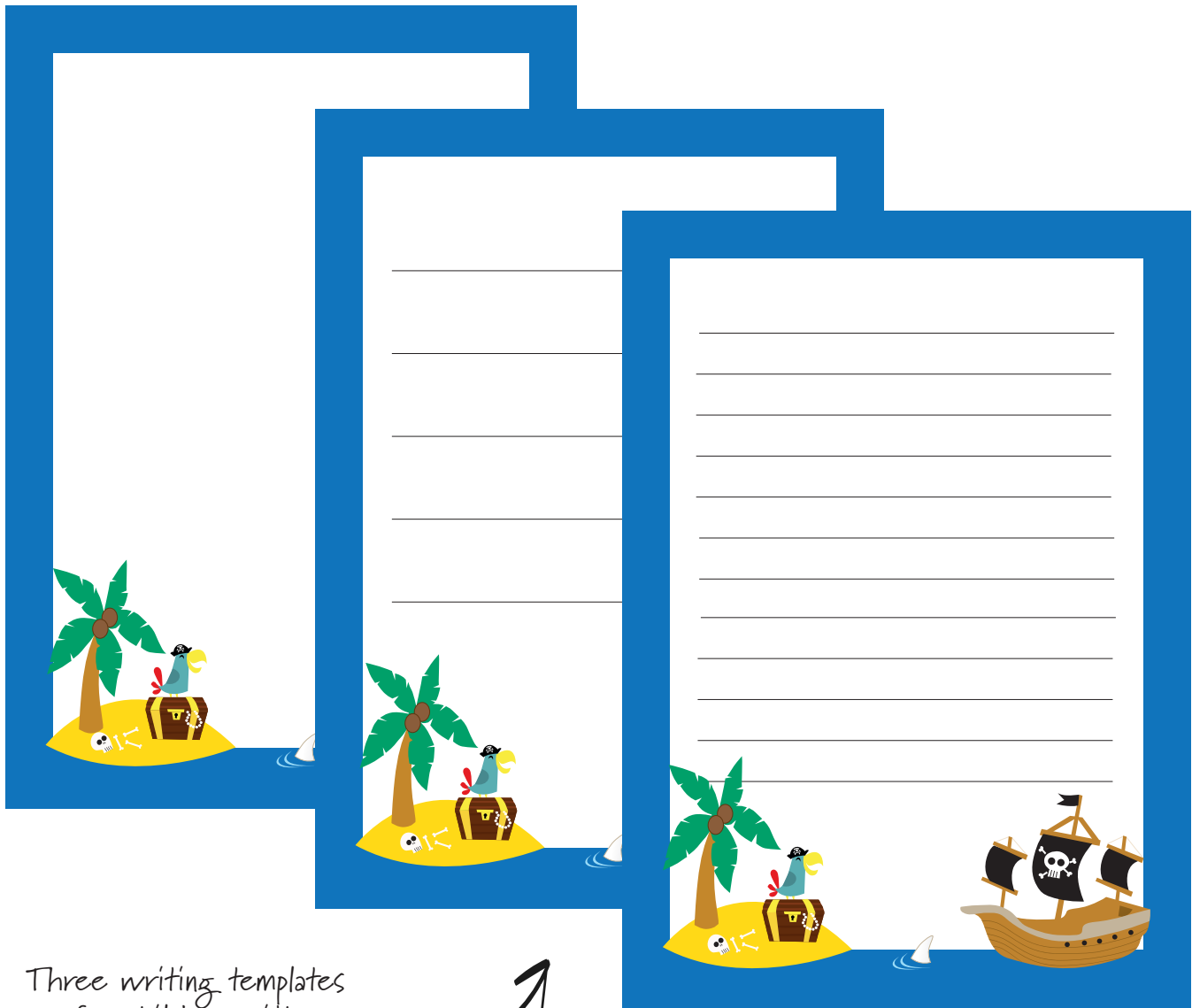
Sometimes two letters go together to make one sound (ck, ss, ff, ll, zz). Explain that these are underlined on the sounds mat and usually go at the end of a word.

Activity Type:	Writing
For:	Independent, 1:1 or group work
Skills:	Letter recognition, fine motor skills, pencil control, letter formation, speaking skills



Writing Paper

Children need lots of opportunities to practise their writing skills in new and exciting ways. Our colourful paper will spark your children's imagination and get them writing with interest and enthusiasm. Whether it's guided by a teacher or completely child initiated, your children will love using the themed paper to write their own pirate stories, lists, invitations and more!



Three writing templates for children with different abilities and handwriting sizes!



Activity Type:	Writing
For:	Independent, 1:1 or guided work
Skills:	Pencil control, letter formation, phonics skills, creative writing

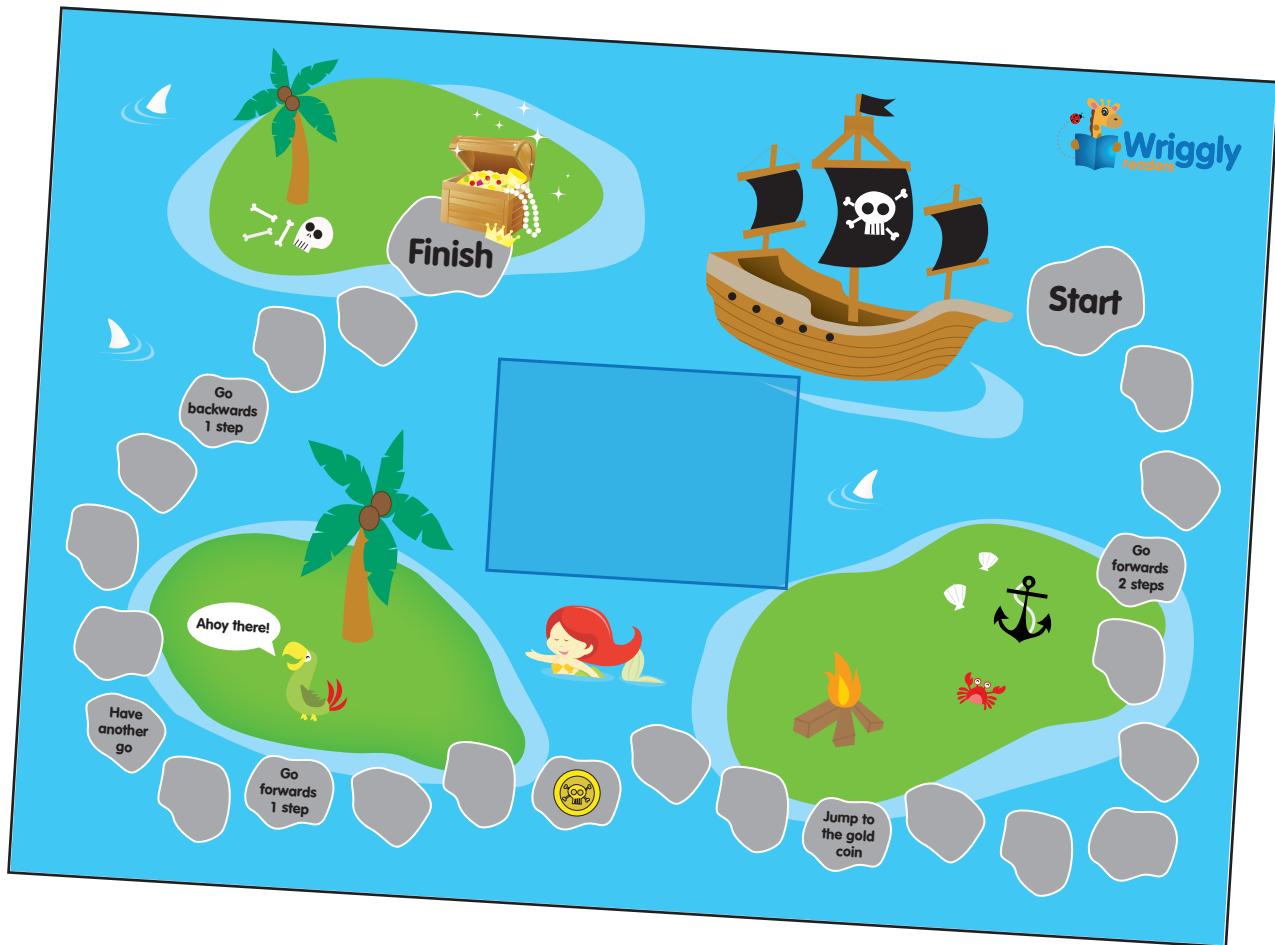
Children are more eager to write if they choose to do it themselves! How about putting the paper on clipboards in the outside area or in the pirate role play area?



Home Learning

Reading Adventure

It's so important for children to practise reading at home, that's why our Pirate Reading Adventure comes as a handy printable for every child to play with their family and friends too. We know how much children love playing games and having fun, so we've made learning to read just as fun for them too. This irresistible home learning activity will motivate even the most reluctant reader and will amaze you and your parents with how much more they want to read at home!



Activity Type:	Reading
For:	Small group or 1:1
Approx Time:	20 minutes
Skills:	Letter and tricky word recognition, segmenting and blending sounds in words and sentences, social skills, turn taking

It's a good idea to photocopy the game board onto A3 paper to allow space for the counters and word cards.


You will need:

- Printable pirate game board (black and white version to save ink)
- Printable counters and spinner (page 31)
- Printable word cards (pages 32 - 34)






Counters and Spinner

Just so your parents and carers know exactly what to do, there's a step-by-step instructions guide that explains how to play the game. They'll also get printable counters and a spinner... all they need to do is simply cut them out with the help of a grown up and get ready to set sail on their Pirate Reading Adventure!


 **Pirates and Mermaids** Game Counters and Spinner

1. With the help of a grown up, carefully cut out the counters and get ready to race to the treasure.
2. Cut out the spinner and poke a pencil through the hole in the middle. Simply twist the top of the pencil, let it go and see what number it lands on.


Level 1 - Reading Cards

			Pirate Word Cards			Level 1		
at ..		red ...		cup ...				
			Pirate Word Cards			Level 1		
mix ...		fun ...		got ...				
			Pirate Sentence Cards			Level 1		
The man has a peg leg.		Pack a bag.		It is a map.				
I put on a hat.		The parrot can run and hop.		Go to the hill.				
Dig up the box.		It is a big fin.		Challenge Card! Can you read all the tricky words?				
				the to no				
				go I into				


Level 2 - Reading Cards

 **Pirate Word Cards** **Level 2**

look	down	path
------	------	------


 **Pirate Word Cards** **Level 2**

boat	ring	car
------	------	-----


 **Pirate Sentence Cards** **Level 2**

You need to look for all the coins.	His beard was short.	He had a hook on the end of his arm.
The chest is deep in the mud.	She is a mermaid.	We are going to get wet on the boat.
My parrot has got long wings.	I can see lots of sharks near me.	They sing on the ship.


Level 3 - Reading Cards

 **Pirate Word Cards** Level **3**

lift	speech .. — —	plant
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 **Pirate Word Cards** Level **3**


stamp	lightning .. — — .. — —	clown .. — — .
-----------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------

 **Pirate Sentence Cards** Level **3**

Some mermaids can swim faster than sharks and speed boats. Have you ever seen one?	Oh no! This ship might sink when there is a thunderstorm.	“Jump off the wooden plank!” said Captain Black Beard. He is a frightening pirate.
What shall we do with all this sparkling treasure? It looks so expensive!	The pirate is digging something out of the sand.	There is so much silver and gold in this chest. Now we are rich like kings and queens.
Twelve green parrots were sitting on a branch. One of them fell off in the wind.	Come on! We need to rush as fast as we can.	Do not fall in the water. There are hundreds of sharks with sharp teeth.


Word Search


Our fun word searches help children to recognise and read tricky words automatically. Whether they're working in Phase 2, 3 or 4 phonics, you'll be able to pop one of these in their book bag to play at home to help them become more fluent and confident with their reading.




Level 1

Pirate Word Search






a	l	m	p
w	n	o	u
v	b	m	h
d	i	u	z
g	w	r	c
t	h	e	q
a	r	b	i
m	f	b	g
q	n	v	e
c	z	p	t





I
to
no




Level 2

Pirate Word Search






a	l	m	p
w	h	e	u
v	b	i	h
m	y	u	z
g	w	r	c
s	h	e	q
a	r	b	i
m	f	h	e
q	n	v	e
w	a	s	t




he
she
we


are
was
all




Level 3

Pirate Word Search





j	p	u	t	h	e	r	e	p	b
c	o	m	e	x	h	a	v	e	c
v	b	i	h	s	o	y	r	i	q
o	l	i	k	e	x	s	o	m	e
g	s	r	c	l	d	o	p	t	u
w	e	r	e	x	s	a	o	n	e
a	r	b	h	l	i	t	t	l	e
m	o	u	t	a	p	z	d	j	w
q	n	v	e	w	h	a	t	k	i
w	h	e	n	r	u	s	a	i	d



said
like
do
come
there
little
out

have
so
some
were
one
when
what

Activity Type:	Reading
For:	Independent
Approx Time:	10 minutes
Skills:	Tricky word and letter recognition, fine motor skills

Reward Chart

Some children find reading difficult or don't enjoy it, which can often mean that they struggle to find the motivation to read at home. This can be a worry to both teachers and parents as they are missing out on invaluable learning opportunities to consolidate their reading skills.

Our reading reward chart is the perfect way to encourage your reluctant readers to practise outside of school too so they can keep making the progress that they deserve.



This will help children to see reading in a positive light, making it much more enjoyable and worthwhile to do!



The child is able to personalise it with their name and use the chart to work towards a goal.