## Lessons at a Glance

Lesson 1: Informal introduction to the alphabet.
Lesson 2: Introduction to the aaa sound as in cat.
Lesson 3: Learn to distinguish between words containing the aaa sound as in cat and other sounds.
Lesson 4: $\quad$ Introduction to the sounds made by the letters $p$ as in $c a p$ and $m$ as in Sam.
Introduction $a p$ and $a m$.
Lesson 5: Introduction to the sounds made by the letters $t$ as in bat and $g$ as in bag. Introduction to $a t$ and $a g$.
Lesson 6: Introduction to the sound made by the letters $n$ as in man and $d$ as in had. Introduction to an and ad.
Lesson 7: $\quad$ The following letter combinations will be written on index cards: ap, am, at, ag, an, and ad. Introduction to the sound made by the letters $l$ as in ball and $c$ as in topic.
Lesson 8: $\quad$ Introduction to the sound made by the letters $r$ as in fair and $s$ as in glass.
Lesson 9: Read words for the first time. Read the following words on index cards: cap, lap, map, nap, rap, sap, gap, and tap.
Lesson 10: Introduction to the sound made by the letters $b$ as in crib, $f$ as in cliff, and $h$ as in hush.
Lesson 11: Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ sound as in cake.
Read a sentence for the first time: a cat sat.
Introduction to the use of periods.
Lesson 12: Introduction to the sound made by the letters $w$ as in now and $z$ as in buzz. Introduction to the first sight word has.
Lesson 13: Introduction to the sound made by the letter $v$ as in have.
Introduction to the sight word the.
Lesson 14: Introduction to the sound made by the letters $y$ as in yes and $j$ as in jet.
Lesson 15: Introduction to the use of uppercase and lowercase letters.
Introduction to the sight word was.
The sentence to be read is written on index cards for the first time.
Lesson 16: Review lesson
Lesson 17: Introduction to the $c$ sound as in back. Read words on index cards such as back, sack, rack, etc. Introduction to the use of silent letters. The letter $k$ is silent in back.
Lesson 18: Review the bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ sound as in cake and read words with the bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ sound such as tail, fail, hail, etc.
Lesson 19: Introduction to the sight word is.
Read additional words with the bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ sound such as cave, wave, pave, etc.
Explain that names begin with an uppercase letter.
Lesson 20: Introduction to the sound made by the letter $k$ as in bake.
Read additional bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ words such as cake, bake, lake, etc.
Lesson 21: Introduction to the sight word $t$.
Introduction to bold $\boldsymbol{a}$ words containing silent $y$ such as pay, say, way, etc.
Lesson 22: Review lesson
Lesson 23: Introduction to the iii sound as in pig. Read words such as dip, zip, sit, etc.
Lesson 24: Introduction to the word his.
Review iii words.
Lesson 25: Introduction to the sight word $I$.
Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{i}$ sound as in bike.
Lesson 26: Introduction to the sight word you.
Introduction to the $n d$ sound as in land.
Lesson 27: Introduction to the ooo sound as in hot.
Read words with the ooo sound such as mop, top, hot, etc.
Practice reading words written in conventional type for the first time in the copy work.
Lesson 28: Review lesson
Lesson 29: Introduction to the ang sound as in bang.
Introduction to the sight word do.

Introduction to the use of question marks.
Sentences take on a new aspect as they are now referred to as stories and they have a title.
Lesson 30: Read words with the ong sound such as long, song, gong, etc.
Introduction to the ank sound as in bank.
Read iii words with $l l$ sound such as hill, fill, kill, etc.
Lesson 31: Introduction to the $c k s$ sound made by the letter $x$ as in fox.
Read words with $s$ added to the end such as dogs.
Introduction to the sight word what.
Lesson 32: Read bold $\boldsymbol{i}$ words with $n d$ sound such as find, wind, mind, etc.
Play Sight Word Bingo game.
Lesson 33: Introduction to the sh sound as in ship.
Introduction to the sight word they.
Lesson 34: Review lesson
Lesson 35: Make Sight Word Worm.
Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{o}$ sound as in hope.
Lesson 36: Play Sight Word Memory game.
Introduction to the sight word are.
Read part one of a four-part story.
Lesson 37: Introduction to the sight words said and of. Introduction to the st sound as in mist.
Introduction to the use of quotation marks.
Read part two of a four-part story.
Lesson 38: Introduction to the sight word put.
Read part three of a four-part story.
Lesson 39: Play Sight Word Bingo.
Read part four of a four-part story.
Lesson 40: Review lesson
Lesson 41: Play Sight Word Bingo
Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{e}$ sound as in heat.
Lesson 42: Review lesson
Lesson 43: Introduction to the $k w$ sound as in queen.
Introduction to the sight word does.
Lesson 44: Introduction to the $p l$ sound as in play.
Lesson 45: Introduction to the $b l$ sound as in black.
Introduction to the sight words some and come.
Lesson 46: Review lesson
Lesson 47: Introduction to the sight word from. Introduction to the eee sound as in wet.
Lesson 48: Introduction to the $c l$ sound as in clap. Introduction to the $s l$ sound as in slap.
Lesson 49: Introduction to the sight word want. Introduction to the $f l$ sound as in flag. Introduction to the $g l$ sound as in glad.
Lesson 50: Introduction to the $d r$ sound as in dress. Introduction to the $c r$ sound as in crab.
Lesson 51: Introduction to the sight words could, should, and would. Introduction to the $f r$ sound as in frog.
Introduction to the $g r$ sound as in grass.
Lesson 52: Review lesson
Lesson 53: Introduction to the $p r$ sound as in prick. Introduction to the $b r$ sound as in brass. Introduction to the $t r$ sound as in trick.
Lesson 54: Introduction to the sight words there and where. Introduction to the sc sound as in scat.

Introduction to the sk sound as in skate.
Lesson 55: Introduction to the $s m$ sound as in smoke.
Introduction to the $s p$ sound as in spill.
Lesson 56: Introduction to the sight word your.
Introduction to the $s n$ sound as in snake.
Introduction to the $s w$ sound as in sweet.
Lesson 57: Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{o}$ sound as in snow.
Introduction to the ow sound as in cow.
Lesson 58: Introduction to the $u$ uu sound as in cub.
Lesson 59: Introduction to the oo sound as in cook.
Introduction to the oo sound as in boot.
Lesson 60: Review lesson
Lesson 61: Introduction to the sight word one.
Introduction to the ing sound as in sing.
Lesson 62: Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{i}$ sound made by the letter $y$ as in $f l y$.
Lesson 63: Introduction to the or sound as in corn.
Lesson 64: Review lesson
Introduction to the use of exclamation points.
Lesson 65: Introduction to the sight word many.
Introduction to the all sound as in ball.
Lesson 66: Introduction to the ink sound as in drink.
Lesson 67: Introduction to the oy sound as in boy.
Introduction to the oi sound as in boil.
Lesson 68: Introduction to the sight word who.
Introduction to the $o u$ sound as in house.
Lesson 69: Introduction to the sight words Mama and Papa.
Introduction to the ar sound as in car.
Lesson 70: Review lesson
Lesson 71: Introduction to the sight words people and that.
Introduction to the ing sound as in sing when added to a word such as taking and hopping.
Introduction to the $f f f$ sound made by the letters $p h$ as in phone.
Introduction to the use of commas.
Lesson 72: Introduction to the ch sound as in chip and patch.
Lesson 73: Introduction to the $n n n$ sound made by the letters $k n$ as in knee.
Lesson 74: Introduction to the sight words with and water.
Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{i}$ sound as in night.
Lesson 75: Introduction to the $t h$ sound as in thick or this.
Lesson 76: Review lesson
Lesson 77: Introduction to the sight word two.
Introduction to the $a w$ sound as in saw.
Lesson 78: Introduction to the alk sound as in talk.
Lesson 79: Review lesson
Lesson 80: Introduction to the sight word once. Introduction to the er sound as in her. Introduction to the $e r$ sound as in her when it is added to the end of words such as taller.
Lesson 81: Introduction to the ir sound as in bird.
Lesson 82: Review lesson
Lesson 83: Introduction to the sight words caught and taught.
Introduction to the $u r$ sound as in turn.
Lesson 84: Introduction to the sight word new.
Introduction to the ed ending as in played and looked.
Introduction to the ed ending as in landed.
Lesson 85: Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{u}$ sound as in cute.
Lesson 86: Introduction to the bold $\boldsymbol{e}$ sound made by the letter $y$ as in baby.

Lesson 87: Introduction to the sight word learn.
Introduction to the $s$ sound made by the letter $c$ as in face.
Lesson 88: Review lesson
Lesson 89: Review lesson
Lesson 90: Review lesson
Lesson 91: Review lesson
Lesson 92: Review lesson
Lesson 93: Review lesson
Lesson 94: Review lesson
Lesson 95: Review lesson
Lesson 96: Review lesson
Lesson 97: Introduction to the sight words Gideon, Hannah, and Sarah.
Begin a twelve-part story called Gideon's Gift.
Gideon's Gift chapter one: "Gideon Wants to Read"
Lesson 98: Introduction to the sight words brother and mother.
Gideon's Gift chapter two: "Lessons for Gideon"
Lesson 99: Introduction to the sight words Benjamin and Rachel.
Gideon's Gift chapter three: "The First Lesson"
Lesson 100: Introduction to two-syllable words such as such as wagon, dragon, button, etc.
Gideon's Gift chapter four: "Going to Town"
Lesson 101: Practice reading words written in conventional type for the first time in the lesson itself.
Gideon's Gift chapter five: "News from Town"
Lesson 102: Introduction to the sight words Anna, work, and cover.
Gideon's Gift chapter six: "A Trip to the Book Wagon"
Lesson 103: Introduction to the sight word four.
Gideon's Gift chapter seven: "The Book Wagon at Last"
Lesson 104: Introduction to the sight word money.
Gideon's Gift chapter eight: "Mama's Story"
Lesson 105: Introduction to the sight words aunt and about.
Gideon's Gift chapter nine: "Going to see the Doctor"
Lesson 106: Gideon's Gift chapter ten: "Gideon Gives a Lesson"
Lesson 107: Introduction to the sight word very.
Gideon's Gift chapter eleven: "Gideon's Essay"
Lesson 108: Introduction to the sight word shoe. Gideon's Gift chapter twelve: "Gideon Gets a Letter"

## Teaching Tips

In the beginning your child will be asked to read simple words. If he reads the words in a stilted or slow manner, have him read each word again more quickly so the words flow naturally. Eventually he will be asked to read sentences. Since this will probably be slow and stilted at first, have him read each sentence again for better flow and comprehension. In other words, each sentence should be read and then read again before moving on to a new sentence. Once the entire story has been read, you the parent should read the story aloud to the child. Often the child spends so much energy trying to read that he misses the meaning of the story. This method will allow the child to relax and enjoy the story. Afterwards, you will ask the child questions provided in the manual to help him with his reading comprehension skills.

If your child shows a strong interest in learning to read, but you feel he is too young, you might try limiting him to one or two lessons per week instead of the usual three lessons. I did this with my four-year-old son, Randall. I included lots of review between the lessons. If he became frustrated or disinterested, we postponed the lessons for a few days. I felt it was better to quit working before he became overwhelmed. Sometimes I divided the more difficult lessons in half. He enjoyed doing schoolwork like his older siblings, as long as it wasn't too much. In the beginning, I didn't require him to do any of the writing exercises. He did, however, enjoy drawing the pictures suggested for each lesson. This technique works well for young children who are ready to learn to read, or it can also be used with older children who need to take a slower approach for one reason or another. Remember, no matter what curriculum you are using, you should always tailor it to fit the child.

Some children are distracted if there is too much text on a page. To remedy this situation, fold a piece of 8 $1 / 2 " \times 11 "$ blank paper in half lengthwise, and place it over the side of the page not being read. This works well for the pages where the text is printed in two columns. For the pages where the text runs all the way across the page, try placing the folded paper horizontally across the page, directly under the line being read.

As mentioned on page 10 under Point 4, you will write one or more sentences from each lesson on index cards, one word per card. You will lay these cards in sequential order, and then have the child read the sentences. Next, you will mix the cards from the sentences, or allow the child to mix the cards, and have him put them in the proper order to make the sentences again. (You will work with one sentence at a time.) As an additional exercise, my son Randall enjoyed making his own sentences from the words on the index cards. Sometimes he would rearrange the words so the sentence asked a question. For example, the sentence may have read: I can buzz in my hive. He would rearrange it to read: Can I buzz in my hive? Of course the punctuation would be incorrect, as we were missing the question mark, and the first word would not be capitalized. We discussed these things. It was exciting to me to see how he would make new sentences. His reading was strengthened and so were his thinking skills. He liked for me to close my eyes while he made new sentences. Then I would open my eyes, and he would read me the sentence he had made. He also enjoyed making nonsense sentences. He would read these and laugh. For example he would rearrange the sentence above to read: I can hive in my buzz. Additional exercises such as these offer the child extra practice with reading, while keeping things light and easy.

When teaching my daughter Mandy to read, I found it best to write all of her reading exercises on index cards. She had a vision problem, which made it difficult for her to focus on one word at a time when there were many words on a page. Writing her sentences on index cards, one word per card, enabled her to concentrate her efforts on just one word. She eventually progressed to reading sentences on a page, if I used a blank sheet of paper or an index card to underscore the sentence she was reading. If your child seems to have a similar problem, you may wish to write additional sentences from the lessons in this manual on index cards. One or more sentences will already be selected for use with this index card activity, but you may find it helpful to include more. This activity is also an excellent way for the child to review material between lessons.

## Things to do Ahead of Time

$\checkmark$ Purchase a box of crayons by lesson 7.
$\checkmark$ Purchase a large package of 3 " x 5 " index cards by lesson 7. (Bulk packages are available at office supply stores.)
$\checkmark$ Purchase a package of rubber bands to group index cards together by lesson 7 .
$\checkmark$ Make a copy of the Sight Word Bingo game boards found on pages 508 and 509 by lesson 32.
$\checkmark$ Make a copy of the Sight Word Worm pattern found on page 510 by lesson 35
$\checkmark$ Purchase colored construction paper. Cut 60 construction paper circles using the pattern for the Sight Word Worm body. (These are the small circles.) You may want to cut ten circles from six different colors. Cut four construction paper circles using the pattern for the Sight Word Worm head. (These are the large circles.) Do this by lesson 35. (You will not need all of the construction paper circles for lesson 35, but it is good to have them made in advance. You will probably make four Sight Word Worms during the course of the program. The sight words are written on the small circles. Each worm can be made up of approximately 14 small circles for the body and one large circle for the head. There are 56 sight words in all. Six of these are proper names. By cutting 60 circles, you will have four extra circles.)
$\checkmark$ Purchase two sheets of poster board. You will glue each Sight Word Worm onto a half a sheet of poster board. Do this by lesson 35. (Here again, you will not need both sheets of poster board for this lesson. You will make only one Sight Word Worm in lesson 35. You will make additional Sight Word Worms in future lessons, but it is helpful to have the materials in advance.)
$\checkmark$ Make a copy of the Sight Word Bingo game boards found on pages 511 and 512 by lesson 39 .

## Lesson 1

Materials: reading manual, large lined or unlined paper, marking pen or pencil, and a stack of your child's favorite books.

Instructions: In today's lesson, you will introduce the child to the letters of the alphabet in a very informal manner. The child is not expected to totally absorb this information. It is only a simple introduction.

In the first fourteen lessons, you will be teaching the letter sounds not the letter names. If your child already knows the letter names this is fine. However, it is not necessary to teach the letter names initially. This will be covered in a future lesson.

Please note the portions of the dialogue printed in this special font are to be read aloud to the child.
(The text contained in the parentheses offers you additional information about the lesson and should not be read aloud. You will find much of this information is repetitious. If you put the reading manual aside for a time, for one reason or another, you will find you may need this information when you resume with the lessons. After a while, you will automatically skip over the information you no longer need. Be careful, however, for occasionally we will add new information that is important for you to read. New information will follow the word Note in bold letters.)

Dialogue: Today we are going to begin an adventure. We are going to learn about letters and the sounds they make. You already know a lot about letters, because you see them all around. You see them on cereal boxes, you see them on signs, and you see them in the books we read.

Where else have you seen letters? Name some letters you know. Letters are used to make words, and words are used to make sentences. You know this because we read sentences from our books everyday.

Can you find one of your favorite books? Let's look at the letters on the cover. Can you name the letters?

What are the letters in your name? Let's print these letters on paper. Now let's make a sentence about you. How about," __ is years old." These are words and they are made up of letters. (Point to the individual words in the sentence as you read.)

This is a sentence. (Run your finger under the sentence.)

A sentence is usually made up of several words. Soon you will be able to read words all by yourself. After that you will be able to read sentences. Then you will be able to read stories and then an entire book.

Which book would you like for me to read to you now? Okay, that's a good book.
(After reading the book with the child, ask him what part he liked best. Encourage as much dialogue as possible about the story. Each day you should end the lesson by reading a book to the child. This reinforces that reading is important, enjoyable, and meaningful.)

## Lesson 2

Materials: reading manual
Instructions: The letters we call vowels consist of $a, e, i, o$, and $u$. The consonants include all the other letters of the alphabet. In this lesson, you will help your child to hear the short vowel sound for the letter $a$ within simple words. This letter makes the $a a a$ sound as in cat. Slowly run your finger under the letters as you sound out each word. This will help your child to understand we read from left to right.

Emphasize the aaa sound in each word. Be careful not to add a vowel sound at the end of each consonant such as $u h$. For example, the word bat is pronounced $b$ aaa $t$. Not $b(u h)$ aaa $t(u h)$. Try to blend the letters together as you say each word. Slowly pronounce each word without saying it in a choppy fashion. Remember, do not read aloud the text in the parentheses. This is for your information.

Dialogue: Today we are going to learn about the letter that makes the aaa sound (as in cat). (Point to the letter below.) This letter says aaa (as in cat). Did you notice the letter is gray?

## $a$

Say aaa (as in cat) as I point to the letter.

Can you think of some words that begin with the aaa sound? (Allow the child time to respond.) Some more words that begin with the aaa sound are apple, Adam, alligator, and attic. (Emphasize the aaa sound in each word.)

There are lots of words that have the aaa sound. Sometimes the aaa sound comes in the middle of a word. Listen to these words that have an aaa sound in the middle. (Point to each letter as you sound out the words. Emphasize the aaa sound, as in cat, in each word.)
mat bag tap
$b a t$
$c a b$
cap

## rag

Do you hear the aaa sound in each of these words? I will read them again.

Next, I want you to close your eyes and listen very carefully. I'm going to say some words that have the aaa sound, but I'm also going to say some words that have a different sound.

If you hear the aaa sound as I say a word, clap your hands. If you hear a different sound as I say a word, sit quietly. Remember, listen carefully for the aaa sound and clap if you hear it.
(Say the following words slowly then pause for a response. Emphasize the aaa sound in each word.)

| bag | rap | mad |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| pig | jack | sad |
| box | pack | rat |
| duck | pat | desk |
| tag | bug | fat |

Very good!
(If the child has difficulty with this exercise, go over each word again, telling him if it has the $a a a$ sound or not. For example, "I hear an aaa sound in the word mad, but I do not hear an aaa sound in the word pig. '")

Now we are going to play another listening game. You can keep your eyes open this time. (Do not show the child the words in the manual.)

I'm going to say two words. One word is an aaa word. That is, it has the $a a a$ sound. The other word will have a different sound. Tell me which word has the aaa sound. (Be sure to emphasize the vowel sound as you say each word.)

I will do the first words for you. The words are cap and cup. (Repeat.) I hear an aaa sound in cap. I do not hear an aaa sound in cup.
(Say each pair of words twice. Remind the child periodically he is listening for the aaa sound.)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { 1. cap } & \text { cup } \\
\text { 2. bat } & \text { bit } \\
\text { 3. hit } & \text { hat } \\
\text { 4. pin } & \text { pan }
\end{array}
$$

(Emphasize the aaa sound in pan even though it may seem a little awkward.)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { 5.back } & \text { buck } \\
\text { 6. bed } & \text { bad }
\end{array}
$$

## 7. bath

Beth
8. fin
fan
(Emphasize the aaa sound in fan even though it may seem a little awkward.)
9.dish dash
10. splash

You did very well. Now let's read a book together. Try to listen for two or three words with the aaa sound as I read.
(Review the listening exercises before moving on to the next lesson. A typical schedule is to complete three lessons per week with review between lessons. If your child has trouble with this lesson even after review, move on to lesson 3 . If your child still experiences difficulty with hearing the " $a a a$ " sound within words after completing lesson 3 , then move on to lesson 4. The material in lesson 4 is presented in a different manner, which may be easier for your child to understand.)

## Lesson 3

Materials: reading manual
Instructions: First, you will review the $a a a$ sound as in cat with the child. Next you will read the words in the list to the child while emphasizing the $a a a$ sound. (See the list below.) This exercise will help the child distinguish between words that contain the $a a a$ sound and words that do not. Remember, do not read aloud the text in the parentheses. This is for your information.

Dialogue: In the last lesson, we talked about words that have the aaa sound (as in cat). Today we are going to learn about some more words that have the aaa sound. Look at the letter below. Say aaa as I run my finger under the letter. Say aaa once more. Notice the letter is gray.

## $a$

Good. Now I will say two words. One word will have the aaa sound, and the other word will have a different sound. Tell me which word has the aaa sound. (Emphasize the aaa sound and say each pair of words twice. Do not show the child the words in the manual.)

I will do the first words for you. The words are mat and met. (Repeat.) I hear an aaa sound in mat. I do not hear an aaa sound in met. (Periodically remind the child he is listening for the aaa sound.)

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { 1. mat } & \text { met } \\
\text { 2.dab } & \text { dub } \\
\text { 3.rug } & \text { rag }
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { 4. pot } & \text { pat } \\
\text { 5. wag } & \text { wig } \\
\text { 6. lag } & \text { log } \\
\text { 7. bag } & \text { beg } \\
\text { 8. cut } & \text { cat } \\
\text { 9. rat } & \text { rut } \\
\text { 10. spit } & \text { spat }
\end{array}
$$

Now it's getting easier to hear the aaa sound isn't it? Look at the pictures below. I will tell you what each picture represents. As I name each picture, tell me if it has an aaa sound. (See picture/word key on next page.)


## cap pig

## frog bed gas

## cat duck flag

Choose a book for us to read. Try to find at least one word with the aaa sound (as in cat) on each page. I will make a list of the words we find with the aaa sound.
(Review the listening exercises before moving on to the next lesson. A typical schedule is to complete three lessons per week with review between lessons. If your child experiences trouble with lesson 2 and lesson 3 even after review, try moving on to lesson 4. Some children have difficulty with hearing the "aaa" sound within a word. Often these children will pick up this concept later.)

## Lesson 4

Materials: reading manual
Instructions: Today you will introduce the child to the sounds for the letters $p$ and $m$. To isolate the sound for the letter $p$, say a word that ends in $p$ such as cap. Say it again in a natural manner, listening carefully. Lift the $p$ sound from the word cap. This is the way you should pronounce the letter $p$ in isolation.

By utilizing this method, you do not add a vowel sound such an $u h$ to the letter $p$. We do not want to say pub. To isolate the sound for the letter $m$, say the word Sam. Lift the $m m m$ sound from the word Sam.

At this point, we are teaching the letter sounds only, not the letter names. If your child already knows the letter names of course this is fine, but it is more important at this point for him to know the sounds the letters make than the names of the letters.

The child will review the $a a a$ sound (as in cat). He will learn to combine the $a a a$ sound with the letters $p$ and $m$ to make the $a p$ and $a m$ sounds. Remember, do not read aloud the text in the parentheses. This is for your information.

Dialogue: Today you will learn two new letters and the sounds they make. Look at the letter below. The sound made by this letter is $p$ (as in cap). (Say the letter sound, not the letter name. Run your finger under the letter as you say its sound, moving from left to right.)

## $p$

Very good! Let's say pagain. (Point to letter once more.)

The next letter you will learn makes the mom sound (as in Sam). (Say the letter sound, not the letter name. Run your finger under the letter as you say its sound, moving from left to right.)

## m

Sometimes we make this sound when we eat something that tastes good. Say mmm again. (Point to letter once more.)

