

We're teaching every child to read with



Little Wandle  
LETTERS AND  
SOUNDS  
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REVISED

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education

# Our Parent Guide to

# phonics



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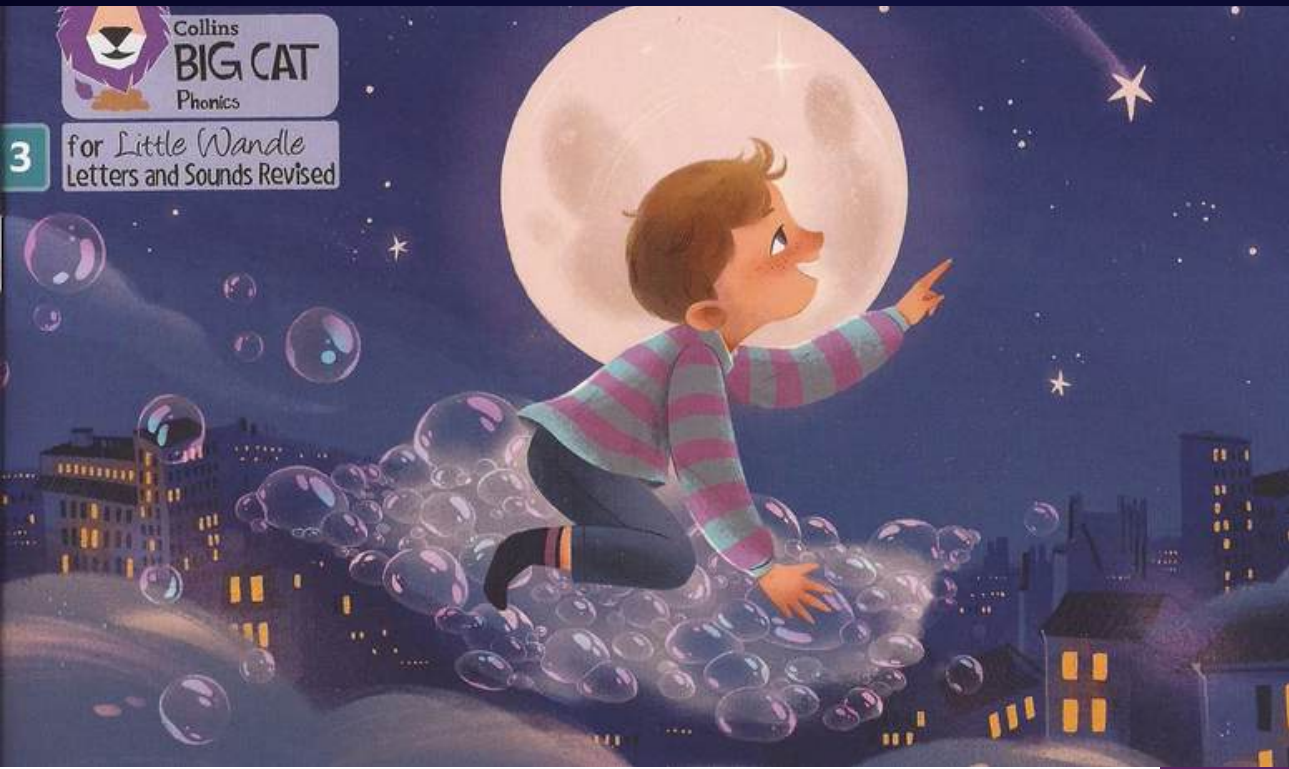
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Collins  
**BIG CAT**  
Phonics

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Letters and Sounds Revised





# What is Phonics?

## Introduction

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read by helping them understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. For example, the letter “s” makes a “sss” sound, and the letter “m” makes a “mmm” sound. By learning these sounds, children can begin to blend them together to form words. This is one of the first and most important steps in learning to read.

## Why is Phonics Important?

Phonics is like a key that unlocks the door to reading. It gives children the tools they need to work out new words on their own, boosting their confidence and making reading more enjoyable. With strong phonics skills, your child can become a more fluent reader, which will help them in all areas of learning. At school, we use the Little Wandle Phonics scheme.

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# Decodable Books

## The Key to Confident Reading

Decodable books are specially designed for children who are just learning to read. These books use words that match the phonics sounds your child has already learned. For example, if your child has learned the sounds for “c,” “a,” and “t,” a decodable book might have the word “cat.” This makes the reading experience smoother and more successful for your child.

## Why Decodable Books Matter

When children read decodable books, they can practise blending sounds together to read words. This builds their confidence because they can successfully read the words on the page. It’s important that children read books that are just right for their level—not too hard and not too easy. This helps them to grow their skills step by step without feeling frustrated or overwhelmed.

## The Balance Between Decodable Books and Other Stories

While your child should focus on decodable books when learning to read, it’s also important for them to enjoy other types of stories. Listening to you read a variety of books—whether they are picture books, stories with rich language, or books that are too advanced for them to read on their own—will help to broaden their vocabulary, imagination, and love of reading.

However, when it comes to your child reading on their own, it’s not about rushing them into harder books. The goal is to ensure they feel confident and capable at each stage of their reading journey. As they master the sounds and words in decodable books, they will naturally progress to more challenging texts.

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# The Dragon King's Daughter

## Our Ebook Library

Our Big Cat Collins for Little Wandle eBook Library is a fantastic resource for supporting your child's reading journey at home. This digital library is packed with carefully selected decodable books that align perfectly with the phonics sounds your child is learning at school. Each book is designed to build your child's confidence by allowing them to practise their reading skills with texts that are just right for their level. The eBooks are easy to access, and you can enjoy them together from the comfort of your home. By using the Big Cat Collins library, you're helping to reinforce your child's learning and nurturing a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

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# How to Access our eBooks Home

To access the Big Cat Collins eBooks, you'll need to log into the Collins Hub. This is where all the eBooks assigned to your child by their teacher are stored. Once logged in, your child can easily explore and read the books from the Library screen. Remember, the Collins Hub is the gateway to all the wonderful eBooks designed to support your child's reading journey!

## Step 1: Setting Up Your Child's Account

1. Soon, you will receive an invitation to log into Collins Hub. You can download the Collins Hub app to access these books.
2. Once you have received your invite, click the Get Started Button.
3. You'll be prompted to set a password for your child. This password must include:
  - Upper and lower case letters
  - A special character (e.g., @, #, \$)
  - A number
4. After setting the password, you can log into the Collins Hub.

## Step 2: Logging In

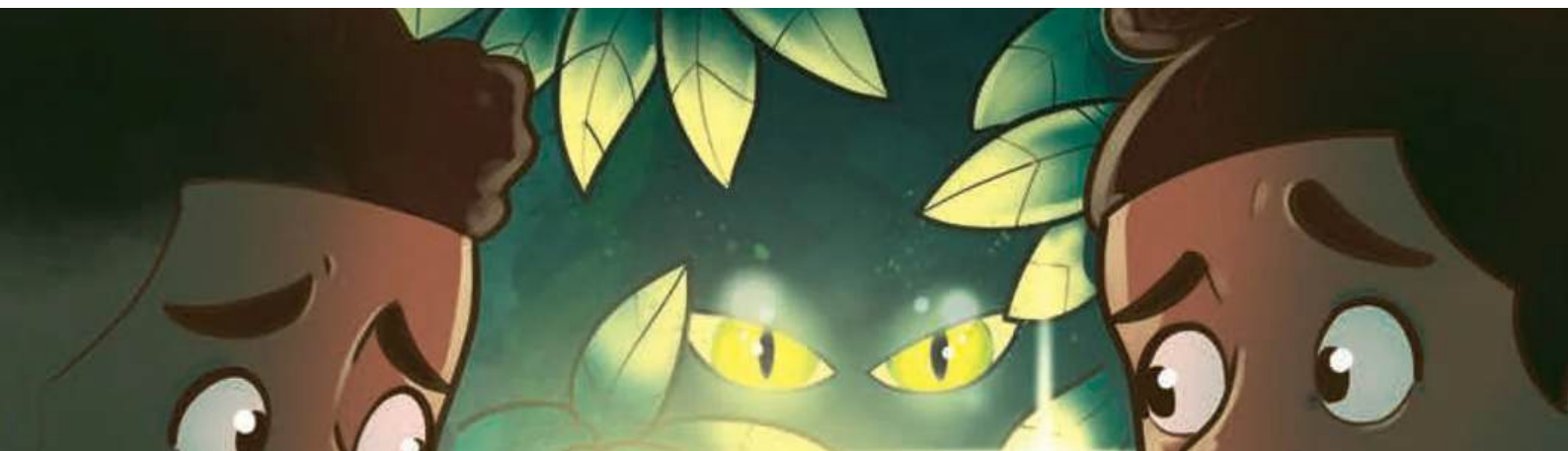
1. On the login page, select "I am a primary pupil."
2. Enter the user details provided and click the "Log In" button.
3. If your child forgets their password, click "Forgotten your password?"

## Step 3: Accessing the eBooks

1. Once logged in, you'll see the Library screen with the Big Cat eBooks assigned to your child by their teacher.
2. Click on a book cover to open it.
3. Click the arrow in the top right corner to show the table of contents, which lets you jump to specific parts of the book. Click the arrow again to hide it.
4. The Library button will take you back to the main library page.

## Step 4: Exploring Coach Mode

1. Click the three dots in the bottom right corner to open the menu for Coach Mode.
2. Coach Mode Features:
  - Listen to the words: Play the audio for each page.
  - Zoom In/Out: Change the size of the page.
  - Jump to a Page: Select a specific page to view.
  - Change Layout: Adjust how the book appears on screen.
3. Click the three dots next to the audio player to change the playback speed or stop autoplay.





# How Can I Help At Home?

Reading is the key to everything in your child's education. Just 5 minutes of reading each night can make a huge difference in their progress. In fact, studies show that children who read regularly at home are more likely to perform better in school across all subjects.

Here's how you can support your child's reading journey:

1. Use the Collins Hub: Make sure your child logs into the Collins Hub to access their Big Cat Collins eBooks. These books are tailored to match the phonics sounds they're learning, helping them build confidence as they practise reading.
2. Daily Reading Routine: Aim for at least 5 minutes of reading each night. This regular practice can significantly boost your child's reading skills, setting them up for success in all areas of learning.
3. Be Involved: Sit with your child as they read, offering encouragement and helping them if they get stuck. Celebrate their progress, no matter how small.
4. Listen and Read Aloud: Use the audio features in the eBooks to listen together, or read aloud to your child. This can help them develop a love for stories and improve their listening skills.

By dedicating a few minutes each day to reading with your child, you're helping to lay a strong foundation for their future learning. Remember, every little bit of practice adds up to big results!





# Hometime Book

At MIS, we believe that reading for pleasure is just as important as learning to decode words. That's why, alongside their decodable books, every child takes home a Hometime Book – a story chosen to spark imagination, encourage a love for reading, and create special moments between parents and children.

The Hometime Book isn't about sounding out every word or practising phonics; it's about enjoying stories together. Whether it's snuggled up on the sofa, during bedtime routines, or a few minutes after school, these shared reading moments make a lasting impact. They not only build a love for books but also create precious memories of reading at home with family.

We encourage parents to embrace the Hometime Book as a way to relax and connect with your child. No pressure, no targets – just the joy of discovering new tales and enjoying the act of reading together. Reading for pleasure helps children develop comprehension, empathy and imagination, shaping them into lifelong readers and learners.

So, as part of our commitment to fostering a love for books, let's make Hometime Book a cherished part of your daily routine. Together, we can inspire a passion for stories that will stay with children for years to come.

