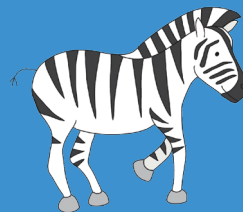


This week we met ...

Queenie and Zoe



qu



z

Dear parent/carer

This week in our literacy lessons we met Queenie the quail and linked her name to the letters **qu** and the sounds /kw/ (which we teach as one sound, as **q** is always followed by **u** in English words). Even though we haven't formally introduced Milo's Uncle Upton with the letter **u**, we have talked about him on our wall frieze and discussed how his letter always comes after the letter **q** in words.

We also met Zoe the zebra, and linked her sound, /z/, to the letter **z**.

Say the sounds /kw/ and /z/

The letters **qu** represent /kw/ – the sounds /k/ and /w/ said close together.

Children looked in the mirror to see how their teeth are together when they are making the /z/ sound. This sound is a bit like the sound of a fly or bee buzzing.

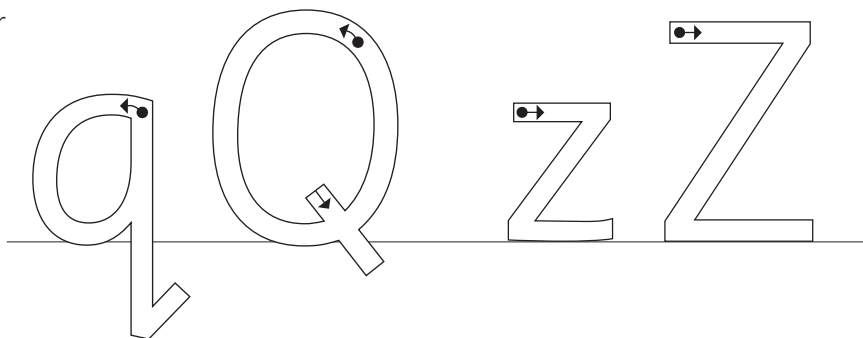
Talk about words

Meeting new friends provides opportunities to talk about some great words – like **quarters**, **questions**, and we hope no one is being **quarrelsome**! At home, you can prompt children for another word that means the same as a word you say, or simply talk about words together by asking: 'What's your best word today?'

Write the letters q and z

Practise tracing and writing our new letters **q** and **z**, emphasising the starting point for each letter.

The letter **z** is a wonderfully easy letter for our Little Learners to write. It is three straight lines in its upper-case and lower-case forms. When eating carrot or celery sticks, get your child to make them into the letter **z**.



Stage 3 decodable books

Your child can now read the Stage 3 Little Learners decodable books. These books practise consonant-vowel-consonant words containing **y**, **r**, **e**, **qu** and **z**, while revising the Stages 1 and 2 letters and sounds. Some books also use plural words such as *pegs*. Happy reading!



Your Little Learners teacher