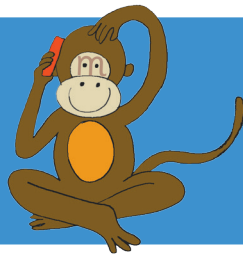
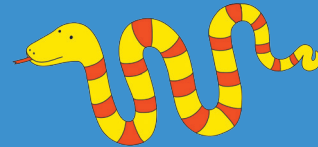


This week we met ...

Milo and Sally



m

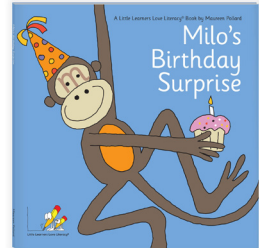


s

Dear parent/carer

This week in our literacy lessons we met Milo the monkey and Sally the snake. Milo wants to celebrate his birthday, so he decides to invite his friends and Sally the snake is the first friend he rings!

In terms 1 and 2 we take your child on a journey through the alphabet by introducing Milo's friends (two each week) and focussing on their letters and sounds, using the *Milo's Birthday Surprise* storybook and resources.



Say the sounds

Milo's name begins with the sound /m/. Sally's name begins with the sound /s/. Both these sounds are easy for children to hear and feel while making them and the sounds can be stretched out. You can practise the sounds at home together, using the videos on our YouTube channel to guide you.

If you see a letter in slashes, for example, /m/, we are referring to the sound – in this case, the sound at the beginning of Milo's name.

Talk about /m/ and /s/

Talk to your child about Milo's sound and Sally's sound. For example, at the dinner table or while driving in the car, ask your child:

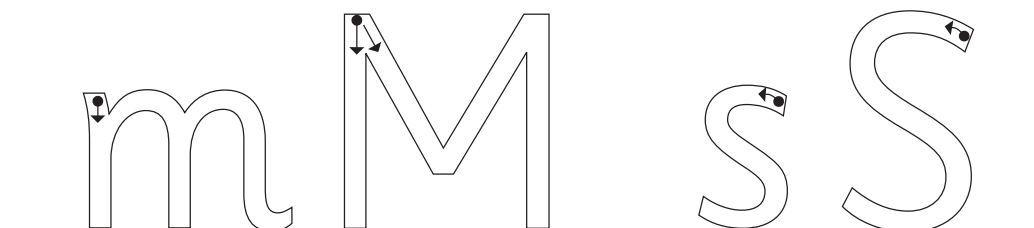
- 'What would Milo love to munch on?' (Think of words that begin with /m/, for example, *muffins*, *meat*, *marshmallows*, *melons*, *mushrooms*, *mango*)
- 'Would Sally like a smoothie or a juice?' (Give two options, one of which starts with /s/.)

Find the first sound

Alert your child to sounds by helping them to hear (isolate) the first sound in a word. A great game for this is 'I spy' – remember to use the sound, not the letter name.

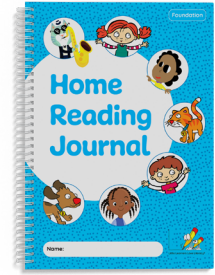
Write m and s

Practise writing the letters **m** and **s** at home – you can do it anywhere – in sand or in the air, with chalks outside and a pencil on paper. Always start at the top, like this:



Read together

Talking and reading with your child are very special times. Read a library book to your child every day and record this in your child's *Home Reading Journal*. Don't ask children to read along with you – they will get their own decodable books to read to you after they have learned their first 8 letters and sounds!



Talking about books

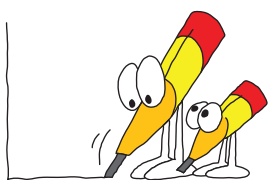
Talking about the book is almost as important as reading it! Asking **some** of these questions can be a good way to check their understanding and spark some interesting conversations.

- What/Who can you see in the pictures?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Have you ever/Would you ever...?
- Where does the story take place?
- What words can you use to describe (say character or object name)?
- What has happened so far?
- What/Who did you like best: x or y?
- What was the book about? Did you enjoy it?



In our Little Learners Love Literacy® lessons, every day we will focus on hearing the sound, reading it and then writing the letter in an engaging way. When children know enough sounds and letters, we will blend them together to read words, and use them to spell words. Each week, you will receive a letter like this alerting you to our new sounds and providing some ideas of how you can support your child's learning at home.

Your Little Learners teacher



Little Learners Love Literacy®

