



Little Learners Love Literacy®

Character Cards & Teacher Notes





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What are they?

The Tam and Pat Character Cards are a free PDF resource to use in your classroom alongside the Tam and Pat decodable books. Each card contains a beloved character from the Tam and Pat stories.

There are two sizes to download:

- 'Display-size' (1 character per page)
- 'Flashcard-size' (4 characters per page).

Instructions

- 1 Print out the PDF in **colour**, 1-sided.
- 2 Cut along the marked lines on the page (keeping the copyright line intact please).
- 3 Laminate each card (we find matt lamination works best).
- 4 Group the cards and pop an elastic band around them, or put them into a ziplock bag for easy access.
- 5 Review the classroom ideas and the character grid for inspiration.

Classroom ideas

Children will love getting to know Tam and Pat, as well as their family and pets. Here are a few ideas to get you started ...

Read and collect

We know that children love to collect cards and rewards. So, each time you read a book with new characters, reward the milestone by letting a child put a new Character Card on the display wall, or by giving out flashcard-size cards for children to take home in their reading bags to discuss with their parents.

Display

Brighten up your display with these relevant cards that reinforce your focus phoneme-grapheme correspondences and show the progress students are making in the program.



Small-group reading

Add a set of Character Cards to your small-group reading book boxes, so they are ready to go when you are.

Before reading:

- introduce the new characters that children will meet in the book (see our character grid)
- use the character names for decoding practice.

Writing

- Ask children to pick a card from the pile (face down). Read the character name out loud and get children to spell it. They could also write a sentence about the character and draw a picture. For example, Sam – Sam is a dog, Mum – Mum is a vet.
- Attach wooden popsicle sticks on the back of each Character Card for children to use as puppets. Ask children to retell the story they just read or act out their own story using the puppets.
- Create a 'lucky dip' bag with Character Cards inside. Children take 2-3 characters from the bag and write a story that includes them. You could use a bag of items or pictures of places to scaffold children's stories even further.
- Write some character fact files using the information you have found in the storybooks. What words would you use to describe the characters?
- Make duplicates of the cards to play snap. Children will get extra reading practice without even realizing it.



Character Grid

New characters in Tam and Pat Stages 1-4

Stage	Book	New character	Who are they?	Teaching points
1	Sam, Tam, Pat	Pat	Tam's brother	These character names are decodable CVC words. Talk about how all names have a capital letter. Medial vowels: /a/ and /i/ Consonants: /t/, /m/, /p/, /s/
		Tam	Pat's sister	
		Sam	Tam's pet dog	
	My cat Tip	Tip	Pat's pet cat	
2	No new characters at Stage 2.			
3	Ned	Ned	Pat's pet ram	These character names are decodable CVC words. Medial vowels: /a/, /i/ and /e/ Consonants: /n/, /d/, /b/, /g/, /t/, /m/
	Big Ted and Meg	Big Ted	Tam's teddy bear	
		Meg	Tam's doll	
	Dad and his hot dog	Dad	Tam and Pat's dad	
4	The fun run	Mum	Tam and Pat's mum	Medial vowels: /a/ and /u/ These two sounds are hard for children to differentiate – lots of practice opportunities are needed. Consonants: /m/, /k/, /z/
	On the bus	Kaz	Kaz the dog	



Tam



Pat



Mum



Dad

Which characters are in the book?

Stages 1-4

Stage	Book	Characters in this book
1	Sam, Tam, Pat	Pat, Tam, Sam
	I am Pat	Pat, Tam
	My cat Tip	Tip, Pat
	The map	Pat (we see Mum in the pictures)
	Sam is it	Sam, Tip
2	Tam	Tam
	Pat and the van	Pat
	At the dam	Pat, Sam
	My hat	Tam
	Sam in the pit	Tam, Sam
3	Ned	Ned, Tim
	Big Ted and Meg	Tam, Big Ted, Meg
	Pat's quiz	Pat
	Dad and his hot dog	Tam, Dad
	The rat	Pat, Sam
4	At the fun run	Tam, Mum, Dad
	Mud	Tam, Pat, Mum, Dad
	In the log hut	Pat, Tam, Dad
	On the bus	Mum, Kaz
	The big red box	Tam, Pat, Dad, Sam



Tam and Pat decodable books are a collaboration between Little Learners Love Literacy® and the Dyslexia SPELD Foundation.

