

How to Share a Level 1 Rhino Readers Book

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Level 1 Rhino Readers books aim to support children with important pre-reading skills by encouraging them to listen carefully and recognise similarities and differences between sounds. They provide opportunities for children to:

- develop their communication skills;
- get to know how books are read;
- begin to understand stories.

Level 1 books are designed to be read aloud by adults to children. Children are not expected to be able to recognise any written letters or sounds until Level 2 phonics.








Level 1 Phonics

Level 1 (or Phase 1) phonics comes before any letters are learned. It's a pre-reading stage that allows children to listen to and recognise similarities and differences between sounds.

This lays the foundations for learning how to segment (split up a string of sounds) and blend (put a string of sounds together). These are key skills that you need in order to be able to read.

Children will listen to a story and join in rather than reading the words in the books themselves. The books provide many opportunities for children to learn new vocabulary and discuss the story.

The seven Level 1 phonics aspects that are included in Level 1 Rhino Readers books are:

Aspect 1	Aspect 2	Aspect 3	Aspect 4	Aspect 5	Aspect 6	Aspect 7
Environmental Sounds	Instrumental Sounds	Body Percussion	Rhythm and Rhyme	Alliteration	Voice Sounds	Segmenting and Blending
						

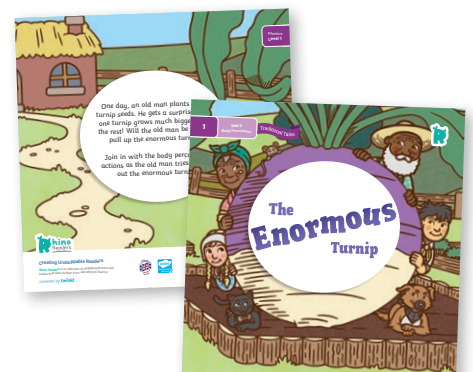
Each Level 1 phonics aspect is represented by one of Kit and Sam's toys. (Kit and Sam are characters who feature in Twinkl Phonics and Rhino Readers books Levels 2–6.) The toy characters provide familiar faces and create links with the different aspects.

What Does a Level 1 Rhino Readers Book Look Like?

Our Level 1 books have some great features to help develop children's pre-reading skills. Here's how to get the most out of sharing a Level 1 book with children.

The Front and Back Cover

Use the front and back cover to talk about what the book might be about. The text on the back cover – called the 'blurb' – helps introduce the book to children. They can predict what might happen in the story using the information in the blurb and by looking at the illustrations.



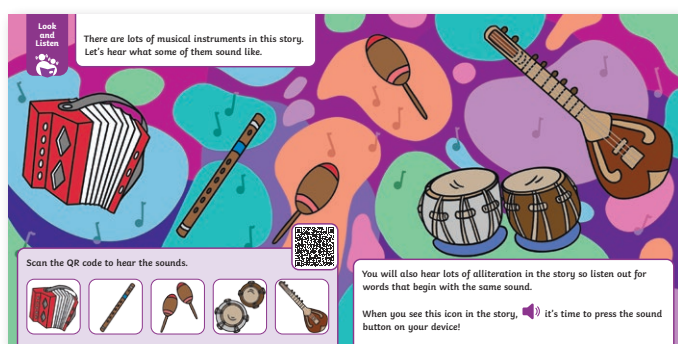
- If your child isn't familiar with the subject or setting, this might also be a good point to explain a bit more about it to them.
- Don't give away too much though – it's fun for children to learn about something for themselves!



Look and Listen Page

Use the Look and Listen page to provide an opportunity for children to listen to and discuss sounds that will feature in the book. This is also a good time to check and see if anything will need further discussion before reading. This will help to prepare them for what's to come in the book!

- The illustrations on this page help to set the scene.
- The text prepares children for the story and allows them to become an active participant as they listen to the book.
- Because sound is so important in Level 1, all of our Level 1 books allow access to recorded sound files. There are interactive sound buttons included in the eBooks on the Twinkl site. Our printed books feature QR codes that allow you to play the sounds on your device.



Sound Buttons

Throughout some Level 1 Rhino Readers books, sound buttons are not only featured on the Look and Listen page but they also appear throughout the book. These sound buttons allow children to develop their listening skills. They will also give them a chance to practise Level 1 phonics skills. In these instances, look out for the following:

In the eBook, a sound bar will pop up at the bottom left-hand page and the sound button will then be clicked. In the printed book, a QR code is available on the Look and Listen page. Use your device to scan the QR code which will then link to a Go page with the sounds included in the book.



A speaker icon will appear in the top right corner. The speaker icon indicates that a sound can be heard on that spread.

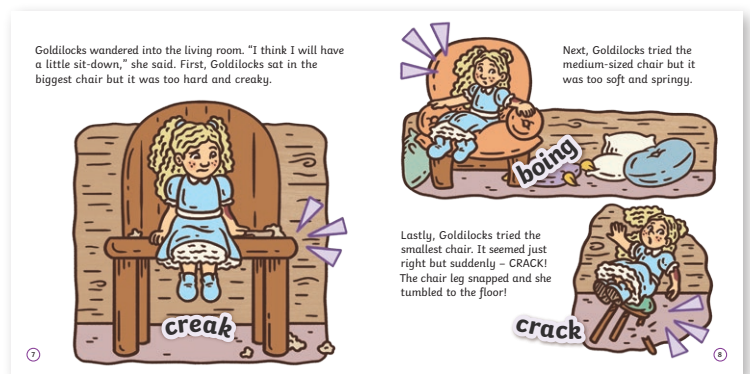
While you read

It's important that children get the chance to think and talk about what they hear as they listen to the text. Try to pause for a quick discussion every couple of pages or so.

You could ask them to:

- answer a question;
- give an opinion;
- explain what they have found out;
- explain what a word means.

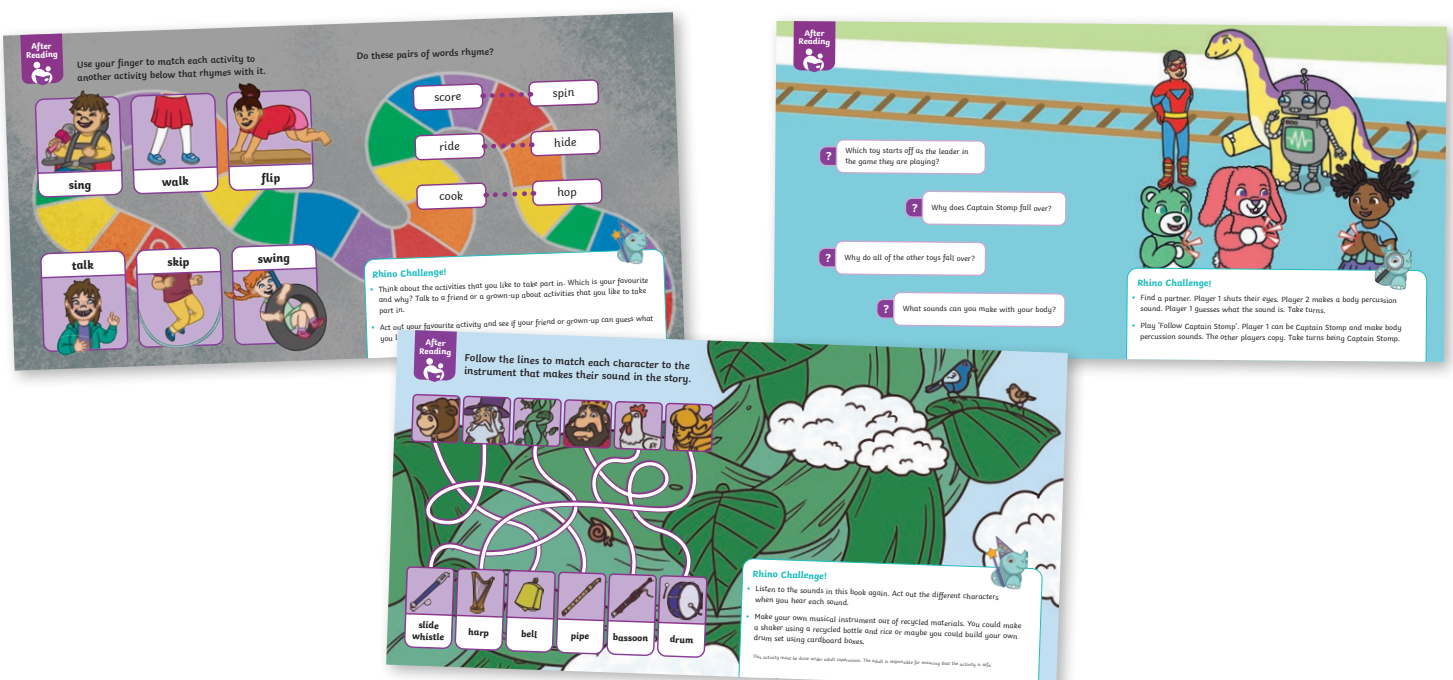
This kind of 'talking around the book' helps children to make sense of what's been read and develops their comprehension of the story.



After Reading Pages

Use the After Reading pages to talk through the book and check children's understanding. This is a great opportunity to build on children's language skills and get them thinking carefully about the book.

- In some Level 1 books, the After Reading Pages contain 4 questions to encourage short phrase or sentence responses.
- In other Level 1 books, the After Reading Pages feature a fun activity in order for children to further enhance the skills they have learnt in the book. They will gain an in-depth understanding of the phonics included in the book and will have the opportunity to practise and recap these skills.
- Two Rhino Challenges are also included in order to make the book even more memorable for children. These challenges also give children a wider experience and understanding of the book, linking it to a fun activity.



What Are the 7 Aspects of Level 1?

The Level 1 books align to the 6 units (36 weeks) of teaching planned in **Level 1 Twinkl Phonics**. Each unit contains 6 books and each book particularly focuses on one (and in some cases, more than one) of the different aspects. Across a unit, most or all of the aspects are covered. Have a look at the table below to find out more about Level 1 Twinkl Phonics.

 Aspect 1	<h3>Environmental Sounds</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment Identify and remember the differences between sounds Talk about sounds in greater detail 	 Aspect 2	<h3>Instrumental Sounds</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop awareness of sounds made with instruments Listen to and appreciate the differences between sounds made with instruments Use a wide vocabulary to talk about instrument sounds
 Aspect 3	<h3>Body Percussion</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop awareness of sounds and rhythms Distinguish between sounds and remember patterns of sound Talk about sounds we make with our bodies and what the sounds mean 	 Aspect 4	<h3>Rhythm and Rhyme</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech Increase awareness of words that rhyme and develop knowledge about rhyme Talk about words that rhyme and produce rhyming words
 Aspect 5	<h3>Alliteration</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop understanding of alliteration Listen to sounds at the beginning of words and hear the differences between them Explore how different sounds are articulated 	 Aspect 6	<h3>Voice Sounds</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds Explore speech sounds Talk about the different sounds that we can make with our voices
 Aspect 7	<h3>Oral Blending and Segmenting</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop oral blending and segmenting of sounds in words Listen to sounds within words and remember them in the order in which they occur Talk about the different sounds that make up words 		

