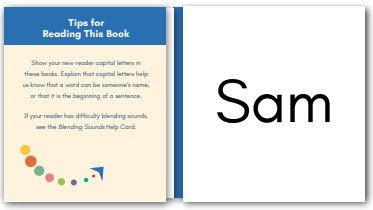
Start Off Right With Decoding Skills

How to use *Read Then Peek*™ at home or in the classroom



Blending just-learned sounds into words is hard work for beginning readers. It's hard to remember the sound and it's tempting to use the picture and guess.

Well, pictures are great, but they can wait! *Read Then Peek*™ books were designed to help students learn, and remember, letter sounds. They were designed so that readers first decode a word then open the flap and peek at a playful illustration to see if they are right!







Who is *Read Then Peek*™ designed for?

All beginning readers, including:

- Preschool and kindergarten students in Tier 1 instruction
- First and second grade students receiving intervention
- Students you notice guessing at words

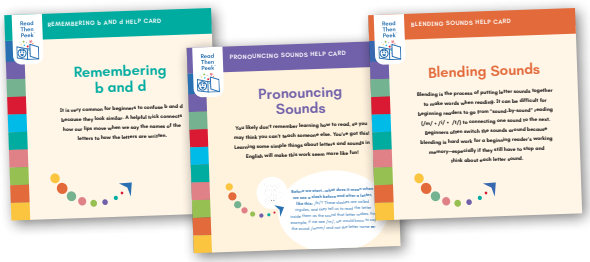
Read Then Peek™ books focus on the most foundational reading skills. They're the right tool to introduce letter sounds or to provide extra support to students who need to build their decoding confidence.

Read Then Peek

A Closer Look at *Read Then Peek*™



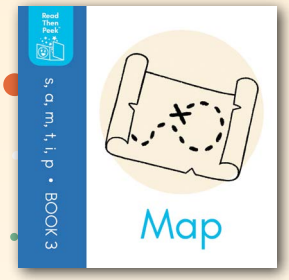
- **30 Books in 10 Groups of Three:** Each group introduces new letter sounds and reviews earlier ones. The first two books in each group feature single words, and the third features phrases or sentences.
- **Designed Just for Little Hands:** The pages were manufactured to lie flat on the table, allowing readers to use their hands and fingers to open the flaps and have fun while learning!
- **Previews of New Letters and Tricky Words:** Inside each front cover is a preview of which letter sounds and "tricky" words will appear, which helps the adults, too!
- **Alphabet Pictographs:** Inside each back cover are colorful pictographs to help students remember the letter sounds.
- **Three Help Cards:** Tips to help beginning readers remember the difference between b and d, blend sounds together, and pronounce sounds.



Tips for Using *Read Then Peek*™







First, choose books by the scope and sequence.

In *Read Then Peek*™, new letter-sound correspondences are explicitly introduced and immediately applied. Each group of three books is color-coded and clearly labeled with the focus sounds being taught and practiced.

For example, Books 1–3 focus on s, a, m, t, i, p, and Books 4–6 focus on f, o, n, d. Use the scope and sequence to find the group that matches the GPC you're teaching.

Before you start...

Set the expectation. Tell your readers that they will read the words first, then peek to see if they read them correctly.

Quick Reference: When a Reader Gets Stuck

- Resist giving them the whole word.
- Prompt with the keyword. If they hesitate at a, say "aaapple."
- If they still can't remember it, tell them the sound.
- Once the sound is identified, you can model blending the letters of the word (I do), then do it together with the reader (we do), then have them blend it all on their own (you do).
- Wait to peek until the word is read!

Build in spelling. Have students also spell the words in each book, using proper letter formation, to strengthen the reading-writing connection.



Mixing up b and d? Books 4–9 focus on remembering b and d. Book 7 leaves out the letter d so readers can focus on b.

Watch for guessing. When a reader reaches for the flap before reading, or says a word that isn't on the page, return to the word.



Any Classroom, Every Student

Whether you're introducing letter sounds or providing extra support, *Read Then Peek*™ is a powerful resource.

Whole Class

Practice letter sounds first with the pictograph poster and cards. Research shows that children learn letter sounds more effectively when a keyword picture is embedded into the letter itself. For each letter, readers should say the letter name (a), the keyword in the pictograph (apple), and the letter sound (/a/). Review the sounds your readers will learn and practice in that day's lesson.



Small Group

Read Then Peek™ books are useful when providing students who haven't mastered a specific letter-sound relationship with extra practice.

- Give each child their own copy of the same book.
- Before reading, review the letter sounds in that book using the pictograph cards or pictographs in the back of the book.
- Preview any tricky words that are shown inside the front cover.
- Ask the students to **read** the word or words together, **then peek** by lifting the flap.

See it in Action

Watch a *Read Then Peek*™ small-group lesson.



Intervention

Early books repeat and shuffle words to build decoding confidence. Each group systematically reviews previously taught skills, so earlier books work well for review.