

## Pink Book Band

### Aims

The main aim of the books in the Pink Book Band is to introduce the letters of the alphabet in simple written words so that children learn the relationships between letters and sounds in these words.

The other aims are:-

- to introduce some very 'high frequency' words that are impossible to illustrate alone, but are essential for the construction of meaningful phrases,
- to introduce simple sentences. This includes capital letters and punctuation.

By using sentences we give children clues other than simple letter/sound relationships to decode words. The context of the sentence (semantics) and the order of words in the sentence (syntax) help children to decipher any new written words that are part of their own vocabulary of spoken language.

These aims are achieved by:-

- starting out as simply as possible with a very small number of nouns that can be illustrated,
- using lower case letters only to avoid confusion with capital letters,
- gradually increasing the number of letters and words used in phrases,
- moving on to use capital letters and punctuation in complete sentences.

The letters 's, a, t, p, i, n' were not chosen as a starting point because very few illustratable nouns can be made from them.

The books in the '*AB Starter Pack, First Words Series*' and '*Tom and Bella Series 1*' introduce the most common letters identified by Phase 2 of *Letters and Sounds*. Each book has between 30 and 50 words in total.

The books in '*A Series 5-10*' and '*B Series 5-10*' introduce the rest of the letters of the alphabet identified in Phase 3 of '*Letters and Sounds*'. Each book has between 45 and 73 words in total.

The teaching guide for each series sets out the philosophy behind our reading scheme and shows how the aims are achieved.

The *AB Starter Pack* comes first because it introduces the letters gradually. The first book introduces only the vowels 'a, o' and the consonants 'c, h, m, n, t'.

The first book in the *First Words Series* begins with 9 letters already introduced, including the vowels 'a, e, o'. It goes on to introduce sentences beginning with '*I am ...*' and '*I can ...*'.

*Tom and Bella Series 1*, book 1, begins with 9 letters already introduced. It goes on to introduce sentences using the verbs '*is, has*'.

The *A Series 5-10* and *B Series 5-10* introduce the rest of the letters of the alphabet and the key vocabulary '*see, look, me, my, with, no, is, has*'.

