One-armed robot letters: answers and notes

What your child practised: forming r, n, m, h, b, p and k by going down, back up the same line and over, and telling b and d apart by how they start.

Page 1 · Warm up

Down, back up the same line, over and down, again and again, with no gaps.

Page 2 · Try it together

Bat first (ball after it) = **b**. Ball first (bat after it) = **d**.

Page 2 · A. Trace r, n, m and h

r, **n** and **m** start on the grass line; **h** starts at the sky. All go down, back up the same line and over. **m** goes over twice.

Page 3 · B. Trace and write p, k and b

p: start on the grass, down into the roots, back up and round.
k: down the tall stick, back up, slant out, slant in, kick out.
b: down the tall stick, back up and round the ball.

Page 3 · C. b or d?

b · d · d · b
(1st and 4th: bat first. 2nd and 3rd: ball first.)

Challenge: Not quite. They can look like each other turned round, but they are **made differently**. b starts at the top with the tall stick (bat), then the ball. d starts with a curl like c, then goes up tall and down. Thinking about the start is what stops the mix-up.

Watch out for

- **Starting at the bottom** of n, h or r. Point to the dot: "start at the top, go down".
- **Lifting the pencil** before going back up, which leaves a gap or two separate lines. Say "back up the same line".
- **Mixing up b and d.** Ask "bat first, or curl first?" rather than "which way does it face?"
- **p staying on the line.** Its stick digs down into the roots.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Robot dance:** one of you calls "down, back up, over!" and you both move your arms. Speed up, slow down.
- **Sky letters:** write b and d big in the air, saying "bat, then ball" and "curl first".
- **In the game:** Chapter 5 is zigzag letters v, w, x and z.