Little sentences: answers and notes

What your child practised: blending to read simple words, changing one letter to make a new word, and reading short sentences such as *a cat in a box*, noticing in and on (Reception reading).

Page 1 · Warm up

cat → **h**at · pen → p**i**n · dog → do**t**

Page 2 · In or on?

Five sentences read and acted out. The silly one is up to you!

Page 2 · A. Ring the picture

a cat in a box: the cat **inside** the box (right-hand picture)
a bug on a cup: the bug **on** the side of the cup (left-hand picture)

Page 3 · B. Word magic

New words: **hat**, **log**, **hen**, **bun**. Each joins to its own picture.

Page 3 · C. In or on

a cat **on** a mat · a pen **in** a cup

Challenge: No. The sentence says **on**, so the fox should sit **on top** of the box. Sam drew it **in** the box. He needs to move the fox up onto the top of the box. Little words change the whole picture!

Watch out for

- **Mixing up in and on.** They look alike and are both short. Read the little word on its own, then act it out with a toy and a cup.
- **Guessing the sentence from the picture.** Cover the pictures, read the words first, then look.
- **Reading the old word** in word magic (cat for hat). Point to the new first letter and say its sound before blending.
- **Saying "ay" for a.** In a sentence, a is usually said "uh". Both are fine at this age.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Toy captions:** set up a toy scene and say it as a sentence together: "a pig in a pan!"
- **Word chain:** say a word, then change one sound: cat, hat, hot, hop, mop.
- **In the game:** the Star Stage mixes questions from every chapter. A good way to see what's stuck!