Letters, words and spaces: answers

What your child practised: telling letters, words and sentences apart, counting words, and leaving finger spaces between words (Year 1 punctuation).

Page 1 · Warm up

park has **4** letters. We can play. has **3** words.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Each card should hold one word; words = claps.

Page 2 · A. Count the letters

sun **3** · duck **4** · kite **4** · apple **5**

Page 3 · B. Letter, word or sentence?

b: **letter** · swing: **word** · The sun is hot.: **sentence** · m: **letter** · We like the park.: **sentence**

Page 3 · C. Squashed words

I | saw | a | bird. **4 words**
The | sun | is | hot. **4 words**
Mum | can | run. **3 words**

Page 3 · D. Spaces in the wrong places

The duck can swim.
My kite is big.

Page 3 · Challenge

No. **dog** is **1 word**. It has **3 letters**: d, o and g. Point to each letter, then run a finger under the whole word.

Watch out for

- **Words joined together** (Thedogran). Ask your child to say the sentence slowly and put a finger down after each word they write.
- **Spaces in the middle of a word** (du ck). Say, "A word stays together. The space comes after the whole word."
- **Mixing up "letter" and "word".** A letter is one shape, like d. A word is a group of letters that means something, like duck.
- **Missing short words.** I and a are words too, so they need a space on each side.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Clap the words:** say a sentence and clap once for each word. Then let your child say one for you to clap.
- **Spot it:** on a sign, packet or page, ask your child to point to one letter, one word and one sentence.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Sentences: a capital letter to start, a full stop to end, shows how every sentence begins and finishes.