



The cat has a castle.



The cat is glad.

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Blue Star Education
 12621 Western Avenue
 Garden Grove, CA 92841
www.BlueStarEducation.com

ISBN: 978-1-4206-0688-1
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Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

Building a strong foundation in short-vowel sounds is a critical step in learning how to read. This guide will help you fully utilize the engaging and comical book *Oh, That Cat!* by Sandy Baker. It will provide you with instructional suggestions, fun activities, and multiple ways to assess learning.

The book *Oh, That Cat!* is designed to appeal to the nonreader and beginning reader alike. The colorful and lively illustrations will engage readers and spark lively discussions about the text. The text itself is simple, repetitive, and often predictable to further heighten readability.

The included activities in this guide will provide nonreaders and beginning readers with opportunities to practice and strengthen their phonics and word-recognition skills as well as their reading-comprehension skills. As they read through the book and work through the activity sheets, they will begin to build a stable foundation on which to begin their journeys toward reading fluently.

Materials Needed

- *Oh, That Cat!* book
- crayons or markers
- glue
- paper
- paper bag or empty tissue box
- scissors

Helpful Advice

- Remain positive and encouraging.
- Model fluent reading by reading the book out loud.
- Point to each word as you say it.
- Stop often to talk about the book.
- Ask and answer questions about the book.
- Use the correct vocabulary for the parts of the book (*title, author, word, sentence, illustration, period, etc.*).
- If the child becomes bored or frustrated at any point, take a break!

Quick Tips!

- Set aside a specific time each day to work on reading.
- Complete only a few activity sheets at a time.
- Review the directions on each activity sheet with the child.
- Go over the activity sheet answers together.

Good to Know!

Consonant, vowel, consonant (or CVC) words help children recognize that three distinct sounds or letters can blend together to form a word. Learning new sight words (words recognized on sight) and high-frequency words (words that occur most frequently in print) help children improve fluency. Challenge words are vocabulary words that are a little more challenging to read for beginning readers. All three sets of these words should be reviewed prior to reading the book.

Name: _____

Help That Cat!

Directions: Help the cat get to the castle. Color each word that has a **short a** sound to show the cat the way.

