



Usborne
Phonics Readers
Hen's pens



Usborne Phonics Readers have been created in consultation with a language expert, taking into account the latest research on the most effective ways of teaching reading. Children who have just learned to read can enjoy the lively stories with very little guidance from an adult, gaining the experience and enthusiasm they need to become fully confident readers.

Stephen Cartwright's delightful illustrations complement the text and are designed to stimulate further interest. Fold-out pages add to the enjoyment.

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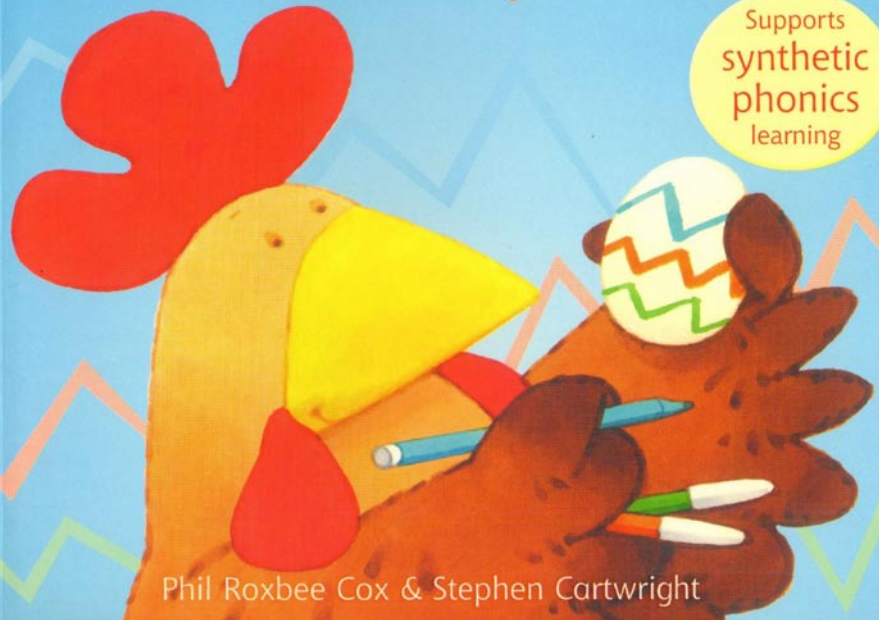


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Supports
synthetic
phonics
learning



Phil Roxbee Cox & Stephen Cartwright

What is synthetic phonics?

Phonics-based reading involves learning to recognize the distinct sounds, or phonemes, that go together to make up words. There are just over 40 phonemes in the English language. Some phonemes correspond to a single letter, like the h-e-n sounds in the word "hen", and others to combinations of letters, such as the sh-ee-p sounds in the word "sheep".

Synthetic phonics is the process of reading by *sounding* the individual phonemes in a word, and then synthesizing – running them together – or *blending* them to read the whole word. Children who learn to read using synthetic phonics start by learning the individual phonemes, then soon learn to sound and blend in order to read whole words. This gives them the confidence to read unfamiliar words and tackle new texts, an important step towards independent reading.

Words can be divided into two basic groups: regular phonic words, such as "hen", which can be read by sounding and blending, and words which are wholly or partly irregular. Most words in English are regular, but some very common words, such as "the" and "was", are irregular and have to be learned. When your child meets an unfamiliar word, encourage him or her to read it regularly; children may recognize the irregularity and correct themselves, or you can guide them if necessary.

Read this story with your child, encouraging him or her to sound out the words as you go. Soon, most children will start to sound out the words for themselves. This is an excellent way of helping to develop a fundamental reading skill.

Dr. Marlyne Grant

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Phil Roxbee Cox

Illustrated by Stephen Cartwright



Edited by Jenny Tyler

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BSc, CertEd, MEdPsych, PhD, AFBPs, CPsychol



There is a little yellow duck to find on every page.

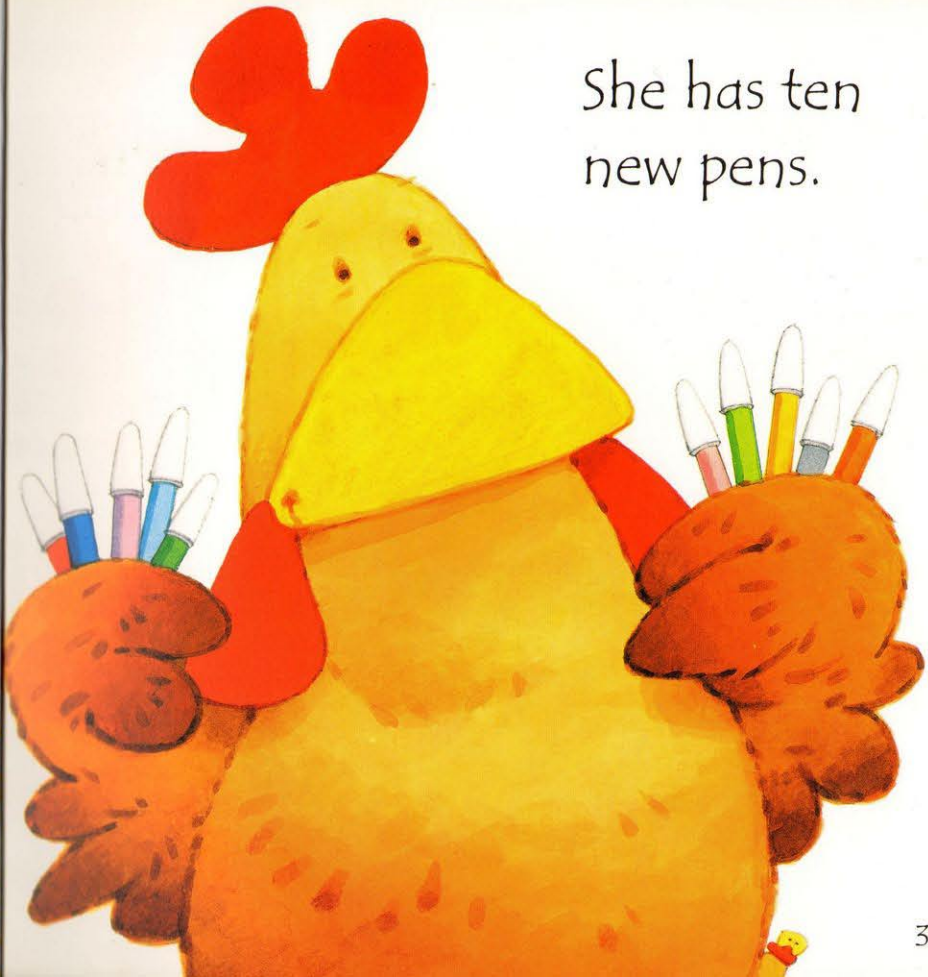
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Hen has new pens.



She has ten
new pens.



"When will you use your new pens, Hen?"

"Now, Brown Cow!"



"What will you draw?"



"Straw..."

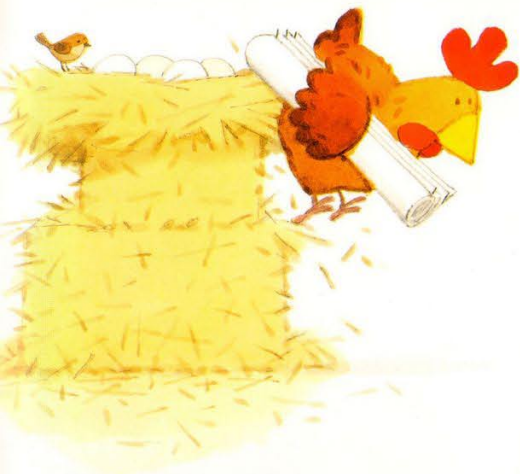
... and the big blue sky,
and a yellow bird flying by."



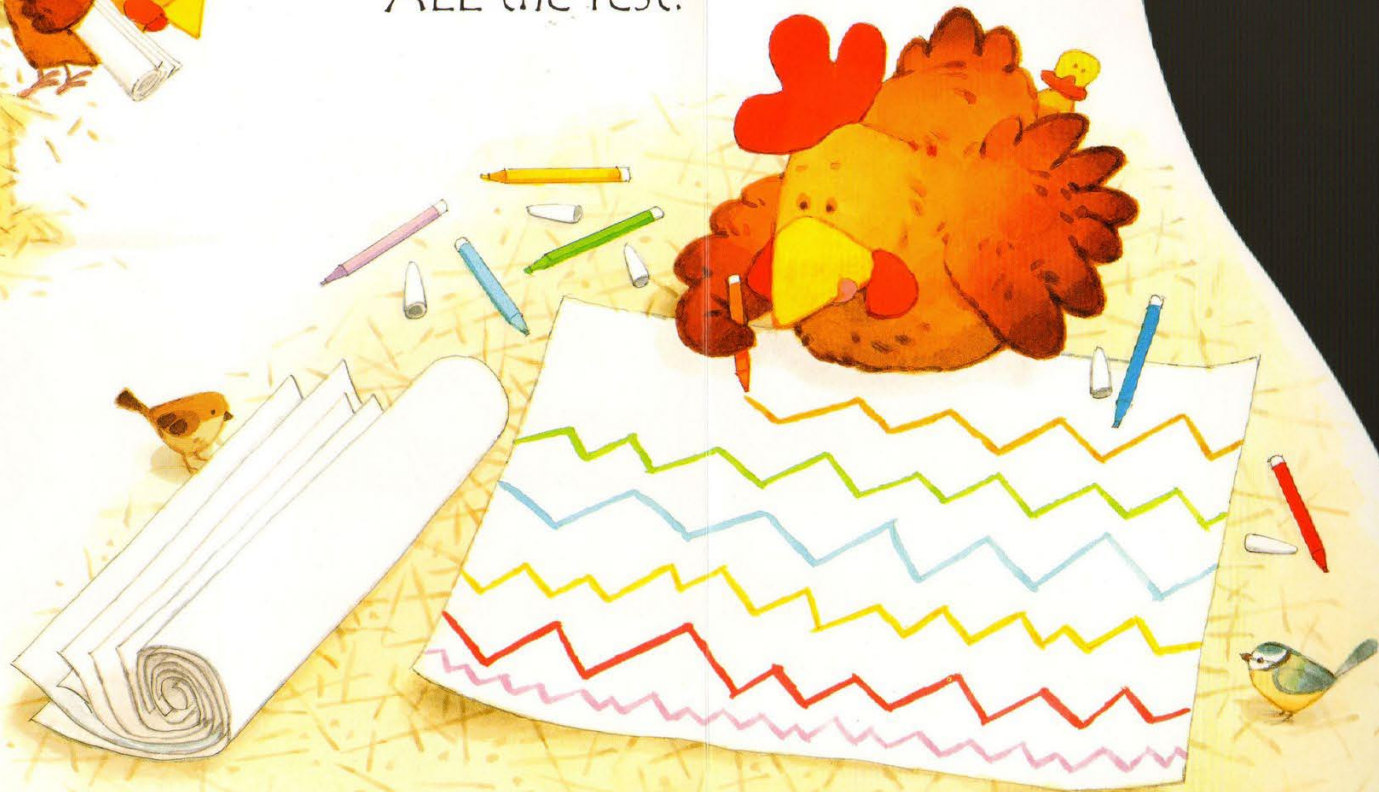
Hen hops
off her
nest.

"Drawing patterns is
what I like best."

"And zigzags are better than
ALL the rest."



Hen hops
off her
nest.



She zigs and zags from left to right.



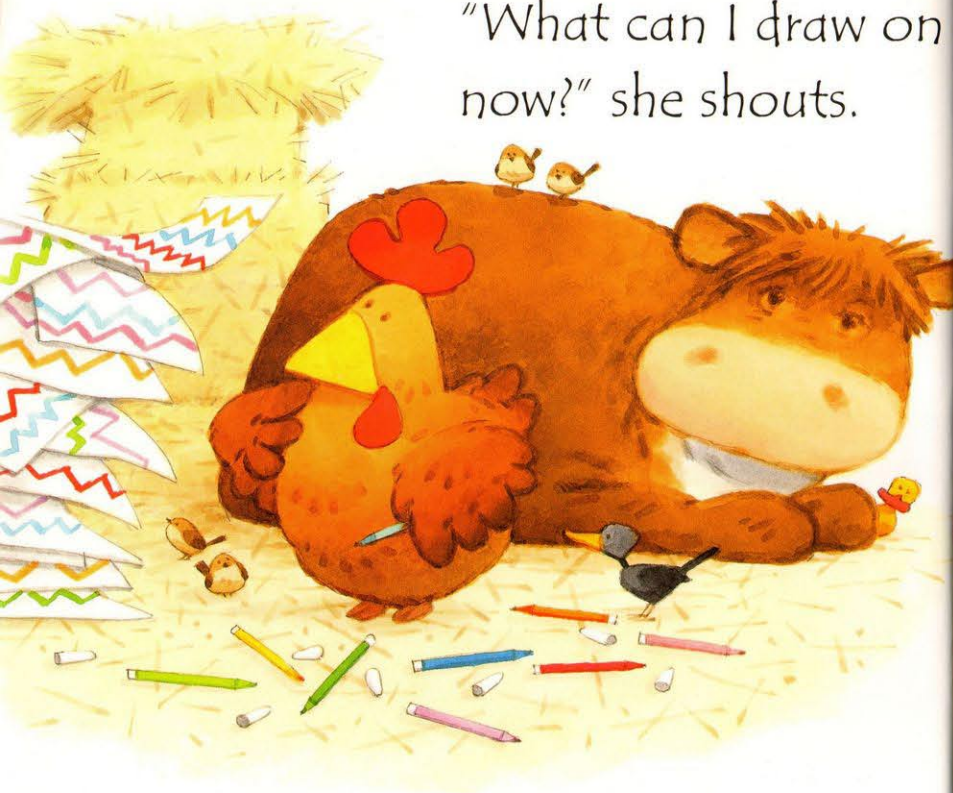
She zigs and zags all day
and night...



... until her paper
has run out.



"What can I draw on now?" she shouts.



"Draw on your eggs!" says Brown Cow.

"Draw big dots on your eggs."
"Or more zigzags?" Hen begs.



Hen's zigzags are very bright indeed.

"Zigzags are just what ALL eggs need!"



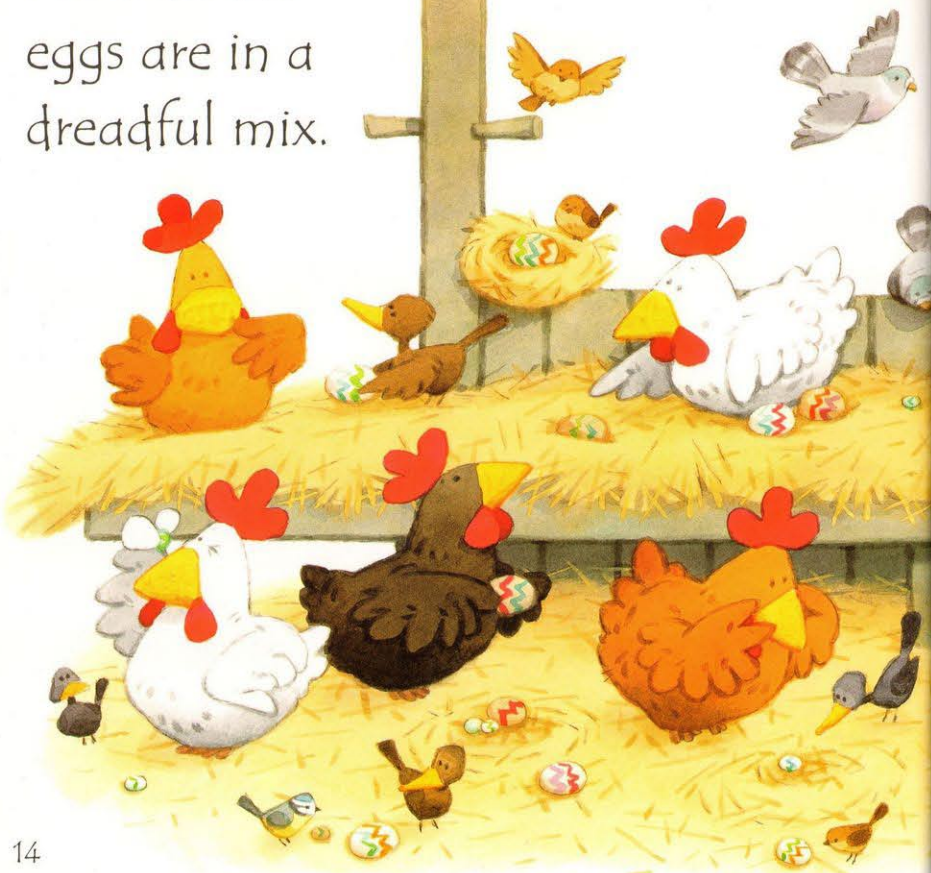
"I'm sure the others will not mind..."



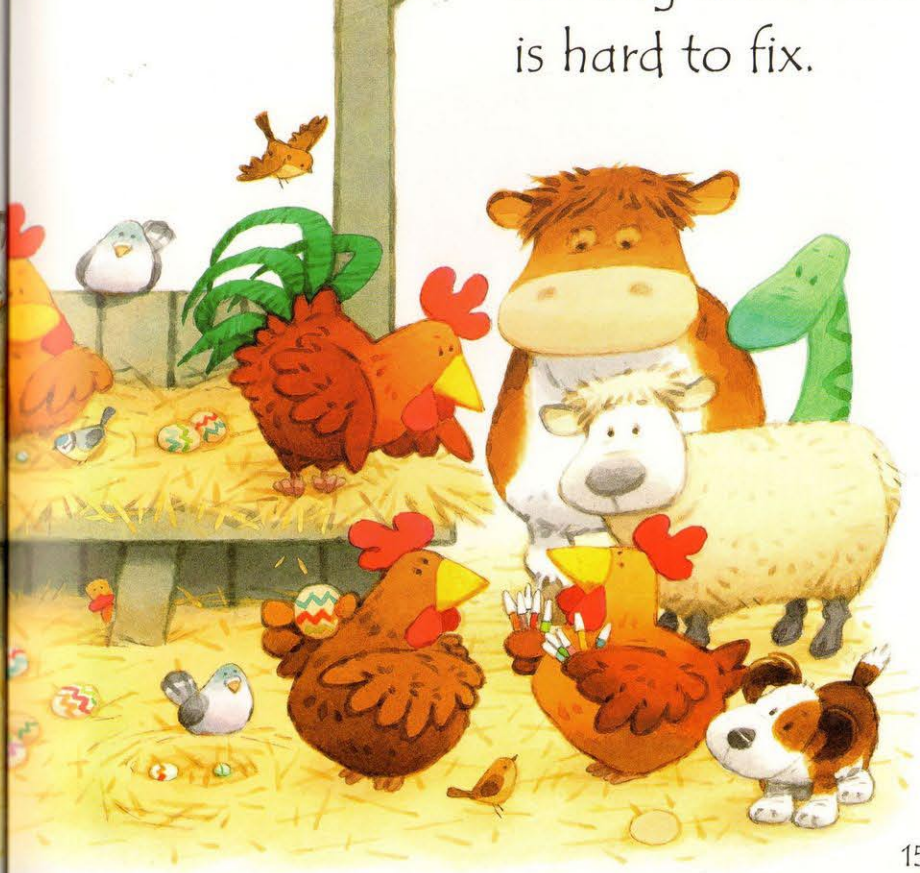
...if I zigzag
all the eggs
I find."



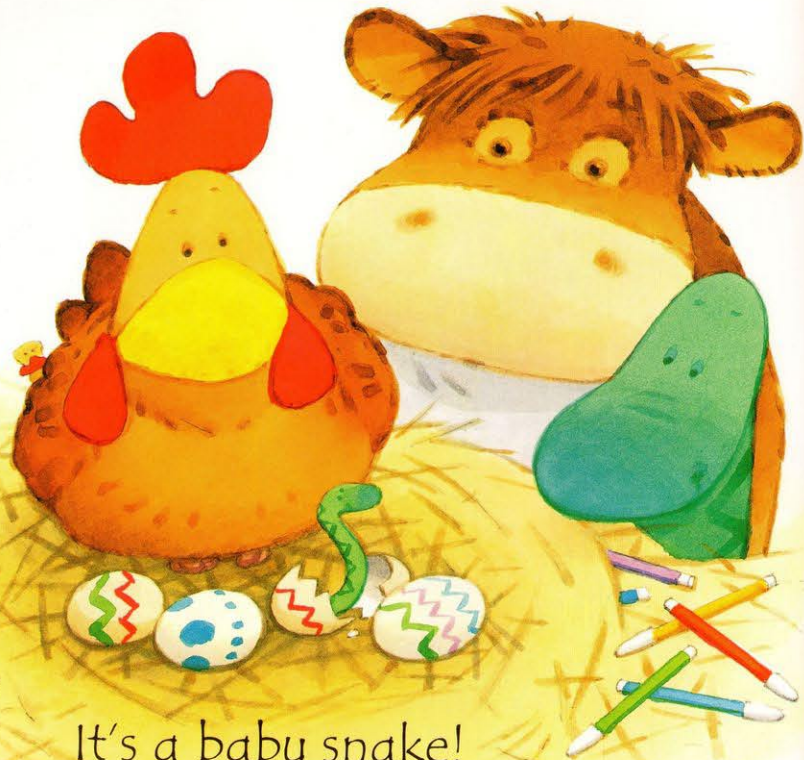
Now all the
eggs are in a
dreadful mix.



Sorting them out
is hard to fix.



Hen has made a bad mistake.
That's not her chick.



It's a baby snake!

