Phonics Shed Overview of GPCs and Supporting Characters

| Set | Grapheme | Phoneme | Characters | Actions (repeat sound as you do the action, children join in) | Formation Rhyme |
|-----|----------|---------|----------------|--|---|
| | S | /s/ | Sam the snake | Hands together and wriggle upwards like a snake, from chest to face and over your head | Slide down Sam, from head to tail Uppercase: Slide down Sam's mum, from head to tail |
| 1 | a | /a/ | Anna the ant | Shake one finger and your head - When Anna is aggravated, she answers 'no'. | Around Anna's head and down to her toes Uppercase: Down one side of the anthill, then the other and shut the door |
| _ | t | /t/ | Tom the tiger | Tapping down the arm with one finger (x5) - Tom has 5 black strips on his terrific tail. | Down Tom's tail and draw on the stripe Uppercase: Down the trunk and across the top to the leaves |
| | р | /p/ | Pat the pig | Pat head gently with one hand | Ear to toe, back to the top and around her head we go Uppercase: Ear to toe and around his head we go |
| | i | /i/ | Indy the imp | Hold tummy with both hands and pretend to laugh "/i/, /i/, /i/" - Indy is a trickster. | Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose Uppercase: Chin to toe, give him a beard, and give him some shoes. |
| 2 | n | /n/ | Noah the nurse | Both arms moving out from chest slowly as if pushing a wheelchair | Down from the handles to the wheel, then up and over its seat to the other wheel Uppercase: Down Noah's back, step forward, then down his front to his toe |

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| | m | /m/ | Monty the monkey | Peeling an imaginary banana | Start at his tail, down his leg, back to the top and jump down and up his legs Uppercase: Down one arm. Shoulder, tummy, shoulder and down the other arm |
| | d | /d/ | Dusty the dog | Wagging hand back and forth like a dog's tail | Around Dusty's body, up to her ear and right back down to the tip of her tail Uppercase: Down Dusty's dad's back, then around his body from ear to tail |
| | g | /g/ | Grey the goat | Tickle imaginary beard below chin - Grey has a great big beard. | Around her head, then down to scoop up her beard Uppercase: Curl around from his horn, up to his eye and draw on his eyebrow. |
| 3 | 0 | /o/ | Ollie the otter | Trap right hand under left arm - Ollie likes to keep special things safe, tucked in the pocket under his arm. | All the way around Ollie Uppercase: All the way around Ollie's mum |
| | С | /k/ | Curly the cat | Scissors with pointer and middle fingers making cutting motions - Curly's fur coat is too long and she needs someone to help her cut it. | Curl down Curly's tail to her claws Uppercase: Curl down Curly's dad's tail to his claws |

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| | k or k | /k/ | Kit the kangaroo | Arm alternating punching out from chest quickly like kicking legs - Kit the kangaroo is a karate king that has some special moves. | Down Kit's body, block with his arms then kick with his leg Alternative looped k: down Kit's body, up and around his gloves, then kick with his leg. Uppercase: Down the karate king trophy, down its arms and kick for its leg |
| | ck or ck | /k/ | Buck the duck | Hold one hand next to face like a beak and move fingers together as you say '/k/, /k/, /k/' | c – Curl down Curly's tail to her claws k – Down Kit's body, block with his arms, then kick with his leg Alternative looped k: down Kit's body, up and around his gloves, then kick with his leg. |
| 4 | e | /e/ | Ellis the echidna | Left hand in 'L' shape and slowly curl finger to make an 'e' shape like an animal curling up | From her beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes Uppercase: Down the burrow and go inside, now shut the door and make room for Ellis |
| | u | /u/ | Ugbie the bug | Arms stuck to side and twist at waist - Ugbie the bug has got his arms stuck to himself! | Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting Uppercase: Under Ugbie's mum's tummy |

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| | r | /r/ | Rex the rat | Moving arms as if running - Rex the rat likes to run around. | Straight down to his tail, back up and over his head Uppercase: Top to toe, around its head and kick across to its other toe |
| | h | /h/ | Haz the hen | Hiding eyes with hands - Haz likes to play hide and hunt with her friends. | From the top of her head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail Uppercase: Down both sides of the hen house and over the door |
| 5 | Ь | /b/ | Bumble the bee | One finger reaching high into the air, 'sting' pointing up - Bumble believes balancing with your bottom in the air makes your brain better. | Straight down from sting to head, back up to its bottom and around its belly Uppercase: Straight down from sting to head, then around its bottom and around its belly |
| | f | /f/ | Flick the fly | Flap hands like wings [not arms] | Over his head, down his body and across both wings Uppercase: Down the stem, across the petals and across the leaves |
| | l | /۱/ | Lily the ladybird | Slide one finger down your hand | Down the leaf to the stem Uppercase: Down the leaf and across the stem |
| 6 | j | /j/ | Jack the jungle explorer | Pulling on hat | Down the vine and catch Jack's hat Uppercase: Down Jill's vine and across the vine at the top |

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| | V | /v/ | Val the vet | Winding arms like wrapping a bandage | Shoulder to tummy to shoulder Uppercase: Wiper to floor, wiper to floor. Make sure they meet in the middle |
| | w | /w/ | Wes the weasel | Shovel imaginary food into mouth with both hands - In winter, weasels have to eat a lot to keep warm. | From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel Uppercase: From head to tail, wiggle down Wes's mum |
| | x | /x/ | Alex the fox | Draw an 'x' in the air | Cheek to toe, cheek to toe Uppercase: Cheek to toe, cheek to toe |
| | y | /y/ | Yan the yoga teacher | Make a 'y' with both arms together and hands in a v-shape in front of body and move hands towards each other when the sound is made | Under the chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee Uppercase: Down one arm, then down the other and stretch to her toes |
| 7 | Z | /z/ | Eliza the zebra | Draw stripes on tummy with open hands, eyes closed | Zig zag zig from toe to shoulder Uppercase: Zig zag zig from toe to shoulder |
| | qu | /qu/ | Quinn the quail | Pinching fingers by face, very small movements - Quinn is too shy to talk on her own. | q – Around her head, down her body and tickle her wing u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting Uppercase: Around Quinn's nest and over the big twig |

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| | S | /z/ | Voiced 's' | Wriggle one hand up like a snake, from chest to face and over your head - hold other hand on throat to feel sound | s – Slide down Sam, from head to tail |
| Opti add to S | - | /ar/ | Alana the Llama [Use here if 'a' is pronounced as /ar/ in 'grass'] | Stretch mouth open wide (as if yawning) | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes |
| | ff | /f/ | Muffin the puffin | Waddle side to side with elbows in and hands out like wings | f – Over his head, down his body and across both wings |
| | แ | /\/ | Billy the bull | Fingers on head like horns and lower head as sound is made | I – Down the leaf to the stem |
| 8 | SS | /s/ | Jess the grasshopper | Wiggle and sway fingers and hand like grass in a breeze - Jess makes a new home in the long glossy grass. | s – Slide down Sam, from head to tail |
| | zz | /z/ | Fizz the buzzard | Hand above eyes and looking for Fizz in the sky | z – Zig zag zig from toe to shoulder |
| onal | tt | /t/ | Lottie the bottle | Pretending to drink | t – Down Tom's tail and draw on the stripe |
| Additional | рр | /p/ | Pepper the hippo | Move body from side to side like a big, slow animal | p – Ear to toe, back to the top and around her head we go |
| 8-1 | rr | /r/ | Barry the parrot | One arm horizontal, across the body like a perch and other elbow resting on top vertically like a bird on a perch | r – Straight down to his tail, back up and over his head |

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| | mm | /m/ | Jimmy the hammer | Slow hammering motions with hand | m – Start at his tail, down his leg, back to the top and jump down and up his legs |
| | СС | /k/ | Rebecca the broccoli | Scrunching hand above head | c – Curl down Curly's tail to her claws |
| | nn | /n/ | Bonny the bunny | Hands in front of body and 'bouncing' up and down | n – Down from the handles to the wheel and up and over its seat to the other wheel |
| | dd | /d/ | Eddy the ladder | Hands in front pretending to climb up a ladder | d – Around Dusty's body, up to her ear and right back down to the tip of her tail |
| | 99 | /g/ | Peggy the egg | Pretending to catch an egg in cupped hands | g – Around her head, then down to scoop up her beard |
| | bb | /b/ | Robby the gibbon | Monkey arms | b – Straight down from sting to head, back up to its bottom and around its belly |

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| | ng | /ng/ | Wing the duckling | Moving elbows as wings | n – Down from the handles to the wheel, then up and over its seat to the other wheel g – Around Grey's head, then down to scoop up her beard |
| | ch | /ch/ | Charlie the chicken | Moving head backwards and forward like a chicken pecking | c – Curl down Curly's tail to her claws h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| 1 | sh | /sh/ | Blush the brush | Brush one hand over the other, changing hands each time | s – Slide down Sam, from head to tail h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | th | unvoice d /th/ | Theo the moth [unvoiced] | Stick tongue out slightly (this helps with making the sound) | t – Down Tom's tail and draw on the stripe h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | th | voiced /th/ | The weatherman [voiced] | Stick tongue out slightly (this helps with making the sound) and hand/fingers gently on throat to feel the vibration | t – Down Tom's tail and draw on the stripe h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| 2 | ai | /ai/ | Gail the snail | Fist on top of flat hand, wiggle flat hand – like a snail | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose |

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| | ee | /ee/ | Dee the sheep | Stretch out arms above head as if sleepy | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes. |
| | igh | /igh/ | Bright the night light | Jazz hands and scared face - Bright the night light can help when you are scared of the dark. | i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose g – Around Grey's head, then down to scoop up her beard h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | oa | /oa/ | Boaty the toad | Open and close fist in front of throat - like toad's expanding throat | o – All the way around Ollie a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes |
| | ue | /ue/ | Huey the statue | Sit up straight and still (like a frozen statue), move eyes side to side with every sound | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| 2 | ow | /ow/ | Brown the owl | Hand on forehead as if hurt - Brown the owl is feeling down and his head hurts. | o – All the way around Ollie w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel |
| 3 | oi | /oi/ | The coin in the soil | One hand cupped by the mouth as if shouting and one pointing at the floor - Indy found a gold coin and shouted for Ollie to look! | o – All the way around Ollie i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose |
| | 00 | /00/ | Boo the goose | Looking from side to side with each sound - like watching tennis - Boo the goose went to the zoo and watched the animals. | o – All the way around Ollie |

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| | 0 | /u/ | Sherwood the woodpecker | Holding one hand vertically, tap the palm with a finger from the other hand - like a woodpecker's beak hitting a tree | o – All the way around Ollie |
| | ar | /ar/ | Archer the star | Hand high above head clenching and unclenching – reach for a star | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | or | /or/ | Gordon the horse | Hands in cup shapes downwards (like hooves) held in front of body, one moves up as other moves down - like a horse walking | o – All the way around Ollie r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| 4 | ur | /ur/ | Kurt the turtle | Place one hand on top of the other and interlock fingers into a fist and rotate thumbs like swimming legs | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | er | /uh/ | Merlin the Gerbil [schwa ending] | Wipe back of hand under nose - Merlin the gerbil is allergic to herbs and they make his nose itch! | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | er | schwa ending | Ryder the spider | Fingers like a spider on opposite shoulder | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| 5 | ear | /ear/ | Ears the earwig | Cup both ears | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |

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| | air | /air/ | Blair the Fairy | Flip imaginary hair with hand - Blair the fairy loves to fix her hair nicely. | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | ure | /ure/ & schwa | The treasure adventure | Lifting lid of an imaginary treasure chest | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| add | onal ition a et 5 | /ar/ | Alana the Llama [Use here if 'a' is pronounced as /a/ in 'grass'] | Stretch mouth open wide (as if yawning) | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes |

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| | oe | /oa/ | Joe stubbed his toe | Bend down and touch your toe as you say '/oa/-/oa/-/oa/' | o – All the way around Ollie e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| 1 | ay | /ai/ | Jay the clay | Squeezing cupped hands together as if moulding a ball of clay | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes y – Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| 1 | ew | /oo/ | Drew the screwdriver | Twisting hand as if using a screwdriver | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel |
| | ew | /ue/ | Stewart the newt | Fast stepping action with hands like a newt scurrying | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel |
| | ea | /ee/ | Beans the flea | Pretend to itch arm | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes |
| 2 | ey | /ee/ | Stanley the turkey | Hands at side of face, fan out fingers each time sound is made | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes y – Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| | ie | /ee/ | Albie the cookie thief | Grabbing with alternate hands right and left each time sound is made | i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |

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| | ie | /igh/ | The magpie | Hands out to the sides (palm down), 'twinkling' fingers, moving hands round to meet at front and back out again - as if surrounded by a glittery nest | i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| | aw | /or/ | Dawn the fawn | Pretend to yawn, eyes closed and hand in front of mouth - Dawn the fawn is sleepy and lets out a big yawn | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel |
| 2 | au | /or/ | Paul the astronaut | Pretend to have a floaty body and arms | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting |
| 3 | ir | /ur/ | Shirley the girl | Draw figure of eight in the air with finger | i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose r – Straight down to his tail, back up and over his head |
| | oy | /oi/ | Troy the boy | Salute - Troy the boy likes to play pirates and say, "Ahoy!" to his crew. | o – All the way around Ollie y – Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| 4 | ou | /ow/ | Sprout the mouse | Hands under chin like paws- whisper sound - Sprout the mouse does not like loud sounds, so we must speak quietly. | o – All the way around Ollie u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting |

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| | are | /air/ | Dare the hare | One hand up in the air pointing forward and one hand behind back like a superhero | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| | ph | /f/ | Phil the Dolphin | Fingers moving forward and to the other side - like a dolphin jumping out of the water | p – Ear to toe, back to the top and around Pat's head we go h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | wh | /w/ | Wheeler the Whale | Hand clenched on top of head, moving up quickly and unclenching - like spouting water from top of head | w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | a_e | /ai/ | Jade the spade | Digging an imaginary hole with a pretend spade | a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| _ | e_e | /ee/ | Pete the millipede | Pointy finger, wiggle across body | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes. |
| 5 | i_e | /igh/ | Mike the kite | Both hands holding pretend string, looking up and moving body side to side - flying imaginary kite | i – Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| | o_e | /oa/ | Hope the cone | Acting surprised as you throw both hands up, and lean back a little to avoid slipping on something | o – All the way around Ollie e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |

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| | u_e | /ue/ | Duke the mule | Slowly shake hands up and down like shaking maracas slowly - holding imaginary reins | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes | |
| | u_e | /00/ | Luke the flute | Play imaginary flute, both hands at one side of face, fingers move when sound is made | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes | |

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| 1 | Recap (s, th, er, oo, ie, ew, u_e) | | | | | |
| | c | /s/ | Nancy the princess | One hand out to the side and one hand on hip, turn nose up | c - Curl down Curly's tail to her claws | |
| | 9 | /j/ | Gem the giraffe | Stretching arm up slowly above head with hand horizontal like a mouth/head (could extend to standing up and reaching up as high as possible | g - Around Grey's head, then down to scoop up her beard | |
| 2 | i | /igh/ | lvor the lion | Two hands like claws near chest and the other hand waving - Ivor is a kind lion who likes to say 'hi!' | i - Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose | |
| | u | /ue/ | Music the unicorn | One finger pointing up on top of head and one hand horizontal under chin - Music is a unique and special unicorn | u - Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting | |
| | e | /ee/ | The meteor | Move fist quickly from up high to down low diagonally across the body from left to right | e - From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toe | |
| 3 | ea | /e/ | Heather the pheasant | Cross arms over body and pull off an imaginary sweater, uncrossing arms as they come in front of face | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes | |
| | ow | /oa/ | Rainbow the snowman | Cross arms and rub biceps - pretend to be cold | o – All the way around Ollie w – From head to tail, wiggle down the weasel | |

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| | or | /ur/ | Wordy the bookworm | Open hands like a book | o – All the way around Ollie r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | ey | /ai/ | Chey the Grey squirrel | Two fingers like teeth in front of mouth and wiggle as sound is made | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes y – Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| | ue | /oo/ | Sue the bluebird | Listening to imaginary egg held in your hands - Sue is listening for her bluebird chicks to hatch. | u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| | 0 | /oa/ | Leo the ghost | Both hands on cheeks as if shocked | o - All the way around Ollie |
| 4 | 0 | /oo/ | Who? | Hold chin and scratch head as if thinking | o - All the way around Ollie |
| | ch | /k/ | Chris the chameleon | Bopping to a beat while making the sound, children can add in a dance move if they like - Chris loves the echo of the techno beat. | c – Curl down Curly's tail to her claws h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | ch | /sh/ | Charlotte the chef | Imaginary mixing bowl under one arm and stirring with the other | c – Curl down Curly's tail to her claws h – From the top of Haz's head to her toes, then up and over her body to her tail |
| | a | /ai/ | April the angel | Make circle with fingers over your head like a halo | a - Around Anna's head and down to her toes |

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| | a | /o/ | Squashy the wasp | Swatting an imaginary wasp, as if holding a fly swatter in your hand | a - Around Anna's head and down to her toes |
| 5 | у | /igh/ | Sky the spy | Tap side of nose twice with one finger - Sky 'knows' all the secrets. | y - Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| 5 | y | /ee/ | Cody the Jellyfish | Hold arms out to the side and wiggle | y - Under Yan's chin from hand to hand,stretch down the body and around tothe knee |
| | y | /i/ | Dylan the Lynx | Rubbing top of ears with fingers pointing up | y - Under Yan's chin from hand to hand, stretch down the body and around to the knee |
| | ou | /00/ | Soupy the toucan | Both hands in front of face like a big beak, open and close with each sound | o – All the way around Ollie u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting |
| | ou | /u/ | Doug in trouble | One palm to forehead | o – All the way around Ollie u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting |
| 6 | ou | /oa/ | Mouldy the boulder | Hold arms to the side and raise them slowly towards each other until you are touching the opposite elbow with each hand | o – All the way around Ollie u – Under Ugbie's tummy and back down to his sting |
| | ear | /ur/ | The Earl | Bow head and tip an imaginary hat | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |

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|-----|----------|---------|---------------|--|---|
| | ear | /air/ | Pear the bear | Holding a pretend pear in one hand and pointing at it with the other | e – From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes a – Around Anna's head and down to her toes r – Straight down to Rex's tail, back up and over his head |
| | si | | n/a | Move arms and upper body like a robot | s – Slide down Sam, from head to tail i - Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose |
| | ge | | | | g - Around Grey's head, then down to scoop up her beard e - From Ellis' beak, around her eye and down to tickle her toes |
| | S | /zh/ | | | s – Slide down Sam, from head to tail |
| 7 | 9 | | | | g - Around Grey's head, then down to scoop up her beard |
| | j | | | | j - Down the vine and catch Jack's hat |
| | Z | | | | z - Zig zag zig from Eliza's toe to shoulder |
| | ti | | | | t - Down Tom's tail and draw on the stripe i - Down Indy's tongue to tickle her tail and bop her on the nose |