

Māhuri



Nat's First Game



Ready to Read Phonics Plus

By Samantha Montgomerie | Illustrated by Stevie Mahardhika

Nat's First Game

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Written by Samantha Montgomerie

Illustrated by Stevie Mahardhika



Nat puts on her shirt.

It is her first game of football
and Nat can't wait.

“Let's go!” says Nat.

The team goes for a jog.
Nat's boots crunch on the frost.
Birds chirp in the trees.
“Look! I am blowing steam,”
puffs Tāne.





Tāne and Nat are
the first in line.

Sam squirts Lani's shirt.

“Stop squirting!” yells Nat.

“Here!” calls Nat.

Tāne gives the ball a firm kick.

Nat runs fast.

She wants to be first to the ball.





Nat bumps into the girl.
She trips and falls in the dirt.



Nat's shirt has dirt on it.

"I missed the ball," says Nat.

"Kia kaha," says Tāne.





Nat kicks and kicks.

On the third kick, the ball
shoots into the net.

“Goal!” yells Tāne.

“Tino pai,” smiles the girl.

TEACHING NOTES

Nat's First Game

■ Reading practice

This story provides children with practice in reading and understanding short words using carefully selected focus sounds.

Focus sound

ir

Introduce the text and read the story aloud together, pointing to each word as you read. Encourage children to sound out the regular words that they already know the sounds for. The regular words that contain the focus sounds for this book are listed below. For words that include sounds that the children haven't learnt yet, you may simply tell children the words as you read together. Give plenty of praise for children's reading attempts and encourage re-reading to build accuracy and fluency.

Regular words for sounding out

first, shirt, birds, girl, chirp, dirt, squirt(s/ing),
firm, third

Other words to tell children

goal

■ Phonological awareness

Practise segmenting and blending sounds together to make words. You could say, "Let's say the sounds (phonemes) together in each word I say."

Have children find each word you segment and blend on the page.

Use the table below for suggestions on how to segment and blend target words from this story.

first	f-ir-s-t
team	t-ea-m
dirt	d-ir-t
kick	k-i-ck
chirp	ch-ir-p

■ Morphological awareness

Bring children's attention to the free (or root) morpheme **ball** that is used in the story.

ball–football

Think of some other words that include the root morpheme **ball** (e.g. netball, basketball, dodgeball, eyeball, meatball). Help the children come up with the words if needed. Write the words down. Ask children to identify the word **ball** within each word. Discuss the meaning of each word.

■ Vocabulary

Tino pai means very good. **Pai** means good, and **tino** makes it mean something more.

Talk about other words that tino can be used with. For example, **tino wera** means something is hot to the touch, and **tino mahana** means that the weather is warm.

■ Spelling

Support children to listen and identify where the sound change occurs in words. Use the suggested letters or letter blocks to spell and read the words. Prompt as necessary to ensure success.



Use the phrasing: "If this word spells **shirt**, can you spell **dirt**? If this word spells **dirt**, can you spell **dot**?"

Easier changes:

shirt > dirt > dot > lot

Harder changes:

fist > first > feast

■ Story discussion

Discuss how Nat keeps trying, even when she misses her first two attempts at goal. On the third attempt, she gets the goal! Encourage children to think of a time when they didn't give up. How did they feel? Tell children that not giving up is showing **perseverance**. There are many Māori whakatauki (proverbs) that relate to perseverance. For example, *He kai kei aku ringa* – There is food at the end of my hands. Talk to Māori whānau and leaders in your community about whakatauki they might use and discuss these with your children.

■ Story retell

Ask the children to retell the story to a friend or family member. Prompt as necessary using picture cues. Give plenty of praise and encouragement for verbal responses.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA



Rākau
Tree



Tupu
Seedling



Kākano
Seed

Māhuri Sapling

Tense morphemes
Vowel digraphs

Focus sounds

ir



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