Words used in this book:

am     fix     zip

can    I       not

let    if      on

ten    in      tom

wet    sip     up

big    sit

did    tim

Letters learned in the first series:

dog  b  aip

Letters learned in the second series:

smnhceu
This is the letter 'z.' The letter 'z' says 'zzzzz,' like in zipper, zero and zebra.

The letter 'z' looks and sounds a little bit like the letter 's,' but the letter 'z' is different in three ways (which we will learn in the next few pages).
1 Shape

The letter 'z' is made of straight lines, sort of like some of the stripes on a zebra.

But the letter 's' is curvy like a snake; the letter 's' doesn't have any straight lines.

2 Voice

A voice is a sound that you make in your throat. Touch your throat as you talk, and you can feel your voice.

The letter 'z' has a voice. It says 'zzzz,' which sounds like a busy, buzzing bee. If you put your hand on your throat, you can feel your voice making the 'zzzz' sound.
But the letter ‘s’ doesn’t have a voice. Like a snake, the only sound it makes is ‘ssss,’ which is a sound you make by pushing air over your tongue (You don’t use your voice to make the ‘sss’ sound.).

(Have the child practice turning his/her voice on and off to make the ‘s’ and ‘z’ sounds.)

Direction

If you put eyes on top of a letter ‘z’ and a letter ‘s,’ they would be looking in different directions.

The letter ‘z’ looks at the letters that came BEFORE it.

The letter ‘s’ looks at the letters that come AFTER it.

Remember, the letter ‘z’ is always the last letter in any alphabet song, so if the letter ‘z’ wants to see another letter, it has to look at the letters that came BEFORE it.
Let’s use our hands to make the letter ‘z’ and the letter ‘s.’

To make the letter ‘z,’ our fingers are straight.

To make the letter ‘s,’ we bend our fingers.

There is one word in this book that use the letter ‘z.’ Can you read it?

**zip**

And do you see how it is different from this word?

**sip**
“I am cold,” says Tim. “Can you please help me zip my jacket?”

tom puts the two ends of the zip together and pulls up.
"Ouch!" says tim. "The zip is stuck in my fur. Quick! Call the rabbit."

"Hello?" says the rabbit, who is washing his hare.

Parent/teacher note: This is a play on the word ‘hair.’ A hare is an animal similar to a rabbit. A hare is usually bigger than a rabbit and usually lives above ground, while a rabbit usually digs a home for itself under the ground. Rabbits come in many different colors, while hares are usually brown or grey/gray.
“Help!” says **tom**.

“We need to **fix** a **zip**.”

“**I** will be there as soon as **I can**,” says the rabbit, wrapping his **wet** hare **in** a towel.
ten minutes later, the rabbit knocks on the door. in his hand is a big, purple straw.

"I brought a straw to help you sip," says the rabbit.
“Silly rabbit,” says Tim.
“We said, ‘Zip,’ not, ‘Sip.’”

“Sick?” says the rabbit.
“Someone is sick? Good thing I am a doctor.”
"No one is sick," says Tim. "I said, 'zip,' not, 'sick.' zip, zip, zip!"

"Okay, okay," says the rabbit. "You don't have to shout. I will sit. Where do you want me to sit?"
“Aaaaah!” says **tim**.

“**zip**,” not, “**sit**.”

What is wrong with your ears today?”

“**I think I** know,” says **tom**. He lifts the towel off the rabbit’s head...
“Hey!” says the rabbit to his wet hare. “Stop pulling my ears!”

“if you let me walk on my feet,” says the wet hare, “I wouldn’t have to hold your ears. Sheesh!”
The wet hare jumps down and hops over to Tim. "Did you know that your zip is stuck in your fur?"

The wet hare wiggles and juggles the zip. "There! Fixed it for you."
"Wow, thanks!" says **tim**.

"You're welcome," says the **wet** hare, hopping back onto the rabbit's head.

"If there is nothing else to fix," says the rabbit, "I will go home. I need to brush my hare. Goodbye!"

THE END