



## **French Companion Guide**

Congratulations on choosing **Little Pim French**.

This *Little Pim Companion Guide* is designed to help you with the proper French pronunciation if you want to learn along with your young viewer. Children are visual and aural learners – they watch the screen, hear what’s being said, and easily understand and repeat; and as they repeat after Little Pim the teacher, they will have perfect accents! Adults, however, may need a bit of written help to understand the differences in pronunciation and/or to remember new words.

This guide will give you some tips about the right way to pronounce French letters and words. If you would like additional support, you can:

- Download our *Companion Script*, which includes all the words and phrases in **Little Pim** in French and English. If you want to read all the words and sentences as they are spoken, you can print this out and follow along with the DVD.
- Choose the optional English Subtitles in the Start Up Menu of the DVD to read English subtitles as you watch

### **The big picture:**

#### **Vowels:**

French has five vowel letters, a, e, i, o and u.

- **a** is a short sound in French, and is pronounced like the ea in “heart”. ai is pronounced like the e in “bed”. au is pronounced like the o in “hole”. eu is pronounced like the u in “hurt”
- **e** is pronounced like the second a in “marmalade” or the word “a” like “a dog” or “a boy”. é is pronounced like the i in “in”. è is pronounced like the word ai sound in “air”
- **i** is pronounced like the ee in “meet”, but a little shorter. ier is pronounced yir. il/ill is pronounced like the y in “yes”
- **o** is pronounced like the o in “more”. At the end of a word, it can be pronounced like the o in “hole”. ou is pronounced like the oo in “noodle”.
- **u** is pronounced like the ew in pewter. Try saying the sound ai like in “air” and gradually pursing your lips as you repeat it. ui is pronounced like the word “we”.

#### **Consonants:**

- **c** is pronounced like the c in “piece”. ç is pronounced like the c in “cat”. **ch** is pronounced “sh”
- **h** is always silent in French
- **j** is pronounced like the English letter *g*, but much softer
- **gn** is pronounced like the *ni* in “onion”
- **qu** is pronounced like the *k* in “karate”
- **n** is pronounced like the *n* in “now”, but is nearly always silent at the end of a word
- **r** in French resonates like the Spanish “r”, but is much more of a growling sound. Think of the harsh consonants in Arabic or Hebrew.

### **Notes on French**

The only steadfast rule in French is that there is an exception to every rule, so don’t despair if you can’t remember everything!