Congratulations on choosing Little Pim Italian.

This Little Pim Companion Guide is designed to help you with the proper Italian 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 Italian 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 Italian 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:
Italian has five vowel letters, a, e, i, o and u. Each of these vowels have two separate sounds, except for a.
- a is pronounced like the ah in “far”
- e can be pronounced like the eh in “get” or like the ay in “grey”
- i is pronounced like the ee in “meet”
- o can be pronounced like in “often” or “oh” like in “rope”
- u is pronounced like the u in “put”

Consonants:
The sounds of many Italian consonants are pronounced like their English equivalents, but there are some differences. For example:
- C is pronounced like the English ch when it is before an e or an i. Otherwise it is pronounced c like in cat. ch is pronounced c like in “cat”
- G is pronounced g like in “gym” when it is before an e or an i, otherwise it is pronounced g like in “go”. gh is pronounced g like in “go”. gl is pronounced like in “million”. gn is pronounced like the ny in canyon, or like the Spanish ñ.
- H is always silent
- R is rolled or trilled, like in Spanish
- S is pronounced like the s in “nose” when it is between two vowels. Otherwise, it is pronounced like the s in “sit”. sc is pronounced sk like in “skip”, unless it is between two vowels and is pronounced sh like in “ship”
- Z is pronounced ts like in “slits” or ds like in “dads”.

Notes on Italian
• Like Spanish and French, Italian has masculine and feminine nouns.