

What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check?

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps your school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress. The check is usually held in June.

Phonics Screening is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

There will be two sections in this 40-word check and it will assess phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes.

It is a school-based check to make sure that your child receives any additional support promptly, should they need it. It is not a stressful situation as the teacher will be well-equipped to listen and understand your child's level of skills.

There will be a few practice words first to make sure your child understands the activity.

It will check that your child can:

- Sound out and blend [graphemes](#) in order to read simple words.
- Read phonically [decodable](#) one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words.

How to support your child at home with Phonics?

With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.

You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to two-letter sounds such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.

Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters.

You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics. There are numerous apps and websites that can support your child with phonics including ICT games, Phonics Play, Cbeebies and Kent NGFL.

How do I say the phonemes?

Take a look at our youtube channel to see a video of how to sound out phonemes.

Pronunciation of Phonemes

Continuous phonemes:

Sss shshsh fff mmm nnn lll rrr vvv ththth zzz

Clipped Phonemes:

b g d w qu y j

Without voice:

h c p t ch k