

## How can I support my child at home?

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### Reading for pleasure.

- Make reading a special time.
- Visit the library/bookshops
- Model enjoying reading
- 'Talk' books

### Daily reading at home.

- Help your child to 'sound out' and 'blend' each word by pointing to each letter, e.g. 'c' in 'cat', or group of letters, e.g. 'th' in 'thin'. Next move your finger under the word as you say it to help them blend.
- If your child is struggling to read a word, help them by encouraging them to 'sound it out' (say each sound in the word from left to right), looking carefully for digraphs (two letters making one sound, e.g. 'th') and trigraphs (three letters making one sound, e.g. 'igh').
- Words containing split digraphs are often trickiest for children to decode so practice lots of these in both real and made up words (e.g. game or meve).

### Regular practice of our Phonics focus.

Can you help your child to spot our Phonics sound in their reading book?

How many words can your child build using our Phonics sound?

### Regular practice using Phonics Screening Check materials.

Use flashcards (provided) and online games to help your child practice applying their Phonics to read real and nonsense words.

<http://www.ictgames.com/poopDeckPirates/index.html>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>

## Further information

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To see some examples of how the 'Phonics Screening Check' is undertaken:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ\\_ZEBh1Bk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk)

# Quick Guide – The Phonics Screening Check

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This is a quick guide to the 'Phonics Screening Check' and what it means for your child.



Updated January  
2019

## What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years (both Nursery and Reception). Once children begin learning sounds, these are used to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds. For this reason, the first initial sounds that are taught are 'm', 'a', 's', 't', 'd'. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. 'sat', 'mad'. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.



## What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a Phonics Screening Check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when they were in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learned sufficient Phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

## What happens during the Phonics Screening Check?

The Check contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to one and apply their understanding of Phonics to read each word aloud to their teacher. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words). The Check will take approximately ten minutes per child, although all children are different and complete the Check at their own pace.



## Pseudo Words



The pseudo words (nonsense words) will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

## Phonics learning in school

The children's Phonics learning is tailored to their individual progress and attainment but includes support such as:

- Instilling a love of books and reading.
- Daily reading activities.
- Daily group Phonics sessions
- Additional Phonics booster sessions.

## Reporting to Parents

At the end of the Summer Term, you will receive your child's end of year report and within this, your child's Phonics Screening Check result. This will also confirm if your child has met the expected standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the Phonics Screening Check when they are in Year 2.

## What is the expected standard?

Each year the Department for Education set what score (out of 40) will determine if children have met the expected standard. This is not shared with schools until after the phonics screening check week. In previous years, the expected standard has been 32 words read correctly out of 40.

## How are the results used?

Results from the check will be used by the school to analyse our performance and by the Department for Education to analyse outcomes at both a national and local authority level.

