



A Little Guide to the Phonics Screening Assessment Check





What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Nursery and Reception. Once children begin learning sounds, they are used orally to identify and make words. Children then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.

The first initial sounds that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills (breaking the word into sounds to spell it out).

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they have learned up to the end of Year 1 and to identify children who need extra phonics help. Due to Covid-19 the check was cancelled in June 2020 and is now taking place in Autumn 2 2020 for all children in Year 2.

Practise the sounds on your sound mats at home every day.

Phonics

What happens during the screening?

The Screening Check has 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with their teacher. Non-words or nonsense words as we call them, are a collection of letters that follow the phonic rules the children have been taught but they don't mean anything. Your child will be expected to read these correctly by segmenting and blending the sounds.

Your child will be able to complete the Screening Check at their own pace as we realise that all children are different.

Reporting to Parents

We will report your child's result to you by Spring 2021. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test in June 2021.

Read as much as possible to and with your child.



How to help at home:

- Read as much as possible to and with your child. Talk about the words, letters and sounds. For example, ask your child, “What words do you see on this page that start with the same letter as your name?” Or, ask, “What is the beginning sound in the word car’?”
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.
- Play I Spy with letter sounds. I spy something beginning with c. Guessing Cat, car, cup etc. Segment the whole word (e.g. c-a-t) and get them to blend it to get the answer.
- Remind your child that when reading nonsense words, they MUST segment and blend them.

Phonics Websites

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

A selection of good but simple interactive games for all phonic phases.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

Nice games for helping with segmenting and blending.

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

A website with lots of links to different phonics games

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

Another good range of games

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

If you've got a longer period of time to sit down on a pc and play this is a good game.

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

A great selection of games, some harder than others!