

What will it be like for your child?

It will be a familiar and comfortable experience for your child, as they regularly spend one-to-one time with a teacher or TA looking at words like this. They may not realise they are being tested. It should take between five and ten minutes.

The check is carried out in the Summer term so plenty of time for us all to work together to ensure the children have the necessary skills.



Please support your child with segmenting (c-a-t) and blending. Suggested games that can be played on-line to help to blend and read phonetically decodable words:

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

<http://www.roythezebra.com/reading-games-word-level.html>

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

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Useful Apps

Here are some apps that can be downloaded to support segmenting and blending.

Nessy- Hairy Phonics



Jolly Phonics



Phonics Screening Check



Information for Parents



The government has introduced a check that is mandatory for all Year 1 children to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt to decode words using phonics strategies to the standard that they expect by the end of year 1 (and Year 2 re-takes). It is designed to identify those children that need extra help so that appropriate support is implemented by the school to improve their reading skills.

How is the check structured?

It is a short check administered one to one with your child by the class teacher comprising a list of 40 words and “non-words”. The “non-words” are included to test pupils’ phonics skills specifically as some pupils may have a wide range of sight vocabulary and the government wish to see whether they have appropriate phonics skills to tackle new words. We use “non-words” in many phonics sessions at school, mainly by playing games on a website which many parents have used also (children may refer to these words as ‘alien or silly words’ :

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







Your child has been taught a variety of phonics, but is not yet confidently secure in using them all:

- phonemes (individual letter sounds).
- diagraphs, (two letters making one sound such as 'sh' or 'ee').
- split diagraphs (where the two vowel s make one sound, but have been separated by a consonant such as 'ae' in a word like 'make').
- trigraphs (where 3 letters make one sound such as 'igh').

Once children have learnt the 26 letters of the alphabet with their 44 sounds and 70 common spellings, they have the tools needed to read words; and it is just a matter of practice, repetition and confidence building which will then enable them to sound out to read and spell difficult words.

The opposite page gives an example of the Phonic Assessment test which was used a couple of years ago so that you can get an idea of the kind of real and nonsense words children are asked to read. The top half of each column consists of nonsense words, followed by some real words. As you will see the 'words' become increasingly more complex.

When children take this test in school they have colourful pictures of the aliens who were being named next to them (see below). A fun and engaging activity you could do together is to draw and name your own aliens.

Practice sheet: Real words	Practice sheet: Pseudo words
in	ot 
at	vap 
beg	osk 
sum	ect 

Screening check: Answer sheet

First name	
Last name	

Screening check responses: Please tick the appropriate box for each word. The use of the comment box is optional.

Section 1				Section 2			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment	Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
tox				voo			
bim				jound			
vap				terg			
ulf				fape			
geck				snemp			
chom				blurst			
tord				spron			
thazz				stroft			
blan				day			
steck				slide			
hild				newt			
quemp				phone			
shin				blank			
gang				trains			
week				strap			
chill				scribe			
grit				rusty			
start				finger			
best				dentist			
hooks				starling			

Total correct

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