

Year 1 Parents Workshop - Phonics

Phonics

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Aims of the Workshop

- To explain what phonics is and its importance in early reading and writing
- To share and explain phonics terms
- To give you ideas for practicing and applying phonics at home
- To share resources

So, what exactly is phonics?

- Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes.
- Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word.
- This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words
- In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

GPCs

This stands for grapheme phoneme correspondences. This simply means that they are taught all the 44 phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down.

These sounds are taught in a particular order. The first sounds to be taught are **s**, **a**, **t**, **p**.

Blending

This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is.

This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting

Children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending.

Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up.

This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

44 Phonemes – clear pronunciation is key!

/b/	/d/	/f/	/g/	/h/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ng/
/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/v/	/w/	/y/	/z/	/th/	/th/	/ch/
/sh/	/oo/	/a/	/e/	/i/	/o/	/u/	/ae/	/ee/	/ie/	/oe/
/ue/	/oo/	/ar/	/ur/	/au/	/er/	/ow/	/oi/	/air/	/ear/	/ure/

Letters and Sounds

The children have been learning phonics using the Letters and Sounds programme, as recommended by the government.

The programme is made up of 6 phases.

Phase 1 – lots of auditory exercises to get children ready to learn letter sounds.

Phase 2 – 19 letters sounds taught and some tricky words

Phase 3 – remaining letter sounds taught and more tricky words plus one grapheme for each remaining phoneme taught.

Phase 4 – consolidation of phase 3. More tricky words CCVC/ CVCC with adjacent consonants: **block**, **plank**.

Phase 5 – alternative spelling for phonemes and more tricky words. (needed for Year 1 screening test)

Phase 6 – Tenses, prefixes and suffixes. (Year 2)

Phonics Terms

- digraph (2 letters making a sound ai, ee, oo)
- trigraph (3 letters making one sound igh, dge)
- Quadgraph (4 letters making one sound augh – like taught, eigh like eight)
- Split digraph (where the two letters are not adjacent (i-e, a-e, e-e) as in cake, like, etc.

Phonics Terms

- High frequency words – the most commonly written words.
- Tricky words – words that cannot be decoded in the phase they are taught and need to be learnt as sight words. E.g. was the people
- Alternate grapheme – different ways of writing the same sound e.g. **rain**, **apron**, **gate**, **stay**.

Phonics Terms

- Pseudo words – made up words without meaning. These are used in the phonics screening test to check that children can spot and decode using phonics.
- E.g - thurm, chaip, strime, flure

PHONICS SCREENING TEST

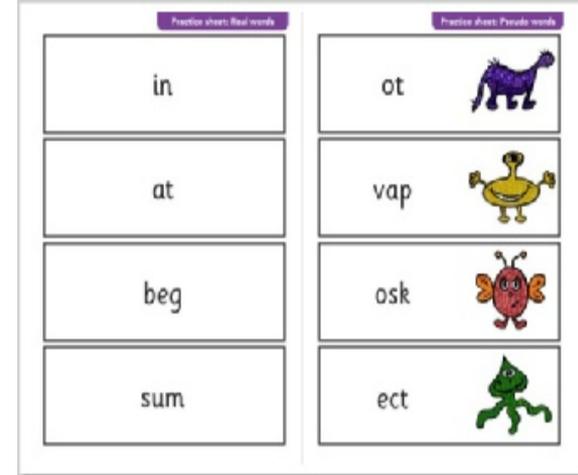
What is the Year 1 phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check will be taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England from June 2012. It 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.

What is in the phonics screening check?

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.

PHONICS SCREENING TEST



What are nonsense or pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell their teacher what sort of monster it is by reading the word. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

Helping at Home

- Listen to your child read daily, building up the amount of time the read for.
- Encourage children to sound out and blend unfamiliar words.
- Help children to try out different sounds for graphemes so that the word 'makes sense'.
- Read to your child – bedtime stories are magical.



Helping at Home

- Play games – making up rhymes and poems.
- Environmental reading – road signs, posters, street names.
- Help children to spot digraphs and trigraphs in words using sound buttons.
- Read for pleasure – use the school and public libraries – and **HAVE FUN!**

Resources – on the web

- Phonics Play – free games and games to print at home
- Oxford Owls – free e-books
- Galactic phonics – free games
- Family Learning – free games
- Education City – all children have their own log in.

Resources –

- Your class teachers – ask for help!
- School reading books
- Library books
- Phonics books – WH Smith