

Screening check:

First name	
Last name	

# What parents need to know about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check...

## What is the Y1 Phonics screening check?

The Phonics Screening Check is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students who need extra phonics help. The Department for Education defines the checks as "short, light-touch assessments" that take about four to nine minutes to complete.

## What's on it?

The checks consist of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything - your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections - one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. The teacher administering the check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first - including some non-words - so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

You can download the Department for Education's official Year 1 Phonics screening check past paper from 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 to get an idea of what your child will be asked to do.

## When does the Y1 Phonics screening check take place?

Schools will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check usually at the beginning of June

## Does my child have to take it?

Yes - all students in Year 1 in England must take the Screening Check.

## What will my child's score mean?

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard.

In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 the "pass threshold" was 32, which means children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. The threshold mark is communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken, so that teachers can mark the Check.

You will be told how your child did, but schools' results will not be published. If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Phonics screening check in Year 2.