

Parent's Guide to the Phonics Screening Test 2019

Practice sheet: Real words

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Practice sheet: Pseudo words

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Dear Parents,

Please read this booklet carefully. It contains information regarding the statutory Phonics Screening Assessment which will take place in June 2019.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes, identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g- sh, oo, ou, ay, ee, blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words.

Why phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way - starting with the easiest sounds then progressing through to the most complex - it is an effective way of teaching young children to read.

What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening test is a statutory requirement set by the department of education. It is a short assessment to check children have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. The checks consist of 40 real words and nonsense words that your child will be asked to read one to one with a teacher.

It will identify the children who need extra help so they are given support by the school to improve their reading skills. The department of education will set a pass mark which was 32 last year. Any children who do not meet the standard of the check in year one will retake the test in year two.

What are nonsense words?

Children will be told during the check which words are nonsense words, these words will have an alien next to them so easier to identify.

Children are already familiar with nonsense or 'alien' words as they are taught during the phonics lessons in school. Nonsense words are important because these are new to all children. Children cannot read the nonsense words by using their memory they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

Examples of real words

| | |
|--------|------|
| meet | shin |
| person | mile |
| train | take |

Examples of nonsense or alien words

| | |
|-------|--------|
| ept | jound |
| quemp | tox |
| geck | strupe |

How can you help your child?

Enclosed with this pack are the sounds we use to teach phonics, you can use these to read and write different words which have these sounds in them. Practice a mix of nonsense words and real words.

Free resources can be found at-

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Mr Thorne network on you tube

<https://ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>

Reading at home daily for 5-10 minutes with your child will increase their ability to segment and blend words.

How are we helping as a school?

At Brady we teach phonics using Read Write Inc. Phonics are taught every morning from 9.15 - 9.45 in small groups. The programme will be taught right up til the Phonics screening check and will continue after for children who did not meet the standard requirement.

After the check

We will tell you your child's progress in phonics and the result of their phonics check in the end of year school report. If your child found the check difficult we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help them improve. The phonics screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

Do you need any further information?

If you have any questions about the phonics screening test please feel free to speak to Ms Kaur or Mrs Divall who will be happy to offer guidance and support.

At Brady we strive to improve reading and learning however, we do not want the children to feel any pressure during the phonics check. Whatever the score, we will be extremely proud of each child for trying hard to achieve their best.