



Phonics Screening Workshop 2025

Welcome!

Reading Changes Everything

“Teach a child to read and keep that child reading and we will change everything... and I mean everything.”

Jeanette Winterson

Some statistics

In December 2018, research found that nearly 90% of children who passed the phonics check taken in Year 1 reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading in Year 6.

Accurate word-reading at age 6 is a good predictor of future reading success.

Why read for 20 minutes a day?

CHILD A

reads 20 minutes
per day

hears 1,800,000
words per year

scores in the
90th percentile on
standardized tests

CHILD B

reads 5 minutes
per day

hears 282,000
words per year

scores in the
50th percentile on
standardized tests

CHILD C

reads 1 minute
per day

hears 8,000
words per year

scores in the
10th percentile on
standardized tests

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A word-reading check taken during the week commencing 9th June 2025.
- Children read 40 words – 20 real words and 20 nonsense or pseudo words.
- The check takes no more than 10 minutes and is done on a 1:1 basis administered by the classteachers.
- Speech-sound pronunciation difficulties and regional accents are taken into account where required.
- Children must blend the sounds completely and accurately to score correctly. We must take their final answer.





These are some examples of nonsense or pseudo words.

We tell the children that they are not real words. Sometimes we call them alien words.

They are designed to test the child's ability to blend sounds to words.

We teach them to identify any digraphs or trigraphs, then point to each grapheme and swipe to blend.

Section 1

sut	
yad	
dop	
uct	

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Section 2

brend



throst



stret



spraw



Section 1

chip

hill

jars

shack

Real words may include plural words, ing, ed words and multisyllabic words.

We practise decoding skills in daily phonics sessions.

Section 2

label

vanish

blossom

thankful



What next?

The threshold is usually 32 words read correctly.

All children are individuals, and develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

If they do not manage to read 32 of the words, they are given extra support throughout Year 2, and repeat the check at the end of Year 2.

How are the results used?

- Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.
- Teachers will gain a better understanding of who needs support with decoding/blending.
- Parents will have an understanding of whether their child is on track with their reading skills (results will be shared with parents in end of year reports).
- Passing the Check does not automatically mean the end of phonics. All children in Autumn Term Year 2 will review the phonics they have been taught in Year 1. If we feel they need some more time to embed their phonics skills, children will continue to receive ELS interventions.



What Can You Do To Help?

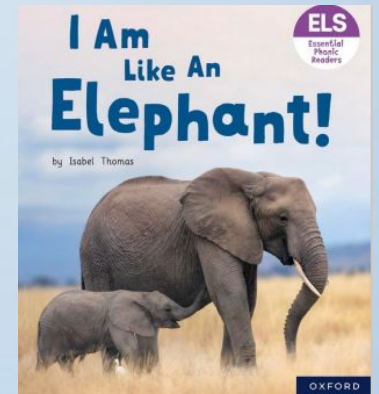
Listen to your child read everyday. This can be a book of their choice, but the more they read, the more exposure they are gaining!

Regular practice of the sounds they have learnt so far. *Remind your child to say the pure sounds...*

Encourage your child to read their decodable books with confidence and pace.

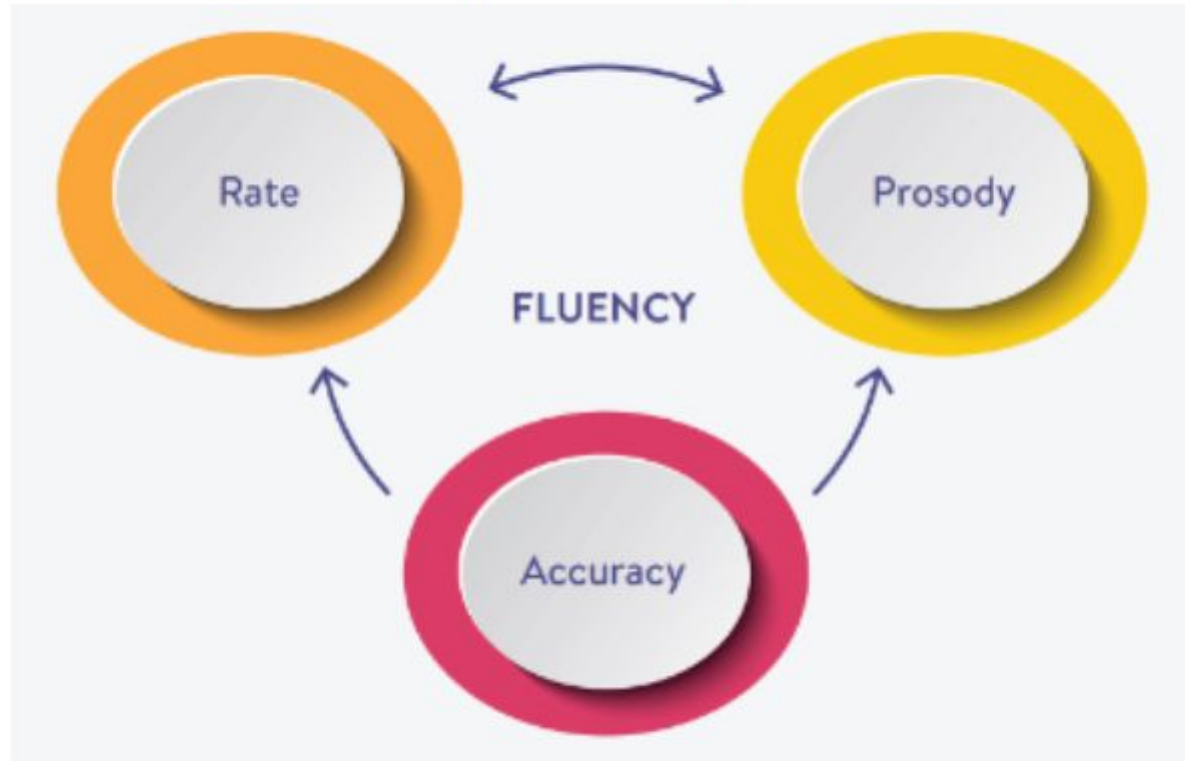
If your child find a word difficult to decode, help them to break it down into individual sounds, and encourage them to use 'Robot Arms' and 'Blending Hands' or the .point and swipe method to blend the sounds.

Play blending games on Phonics Play or Phonics Bloom websites.



What is fluency?

Phonics to Fluency to Comprehension



Reading once is never enough!

It was snowing so we went to have a picnic at the lake near my house. The snow was pale. We had to rake the road leading to my house. My gran baked a fresh cake and gave it to us to take. The landscape was stunning! The ground shimmered and sparkled.

HRS Words:

was house the



Ways to help a develop reading fluency

Adult as model

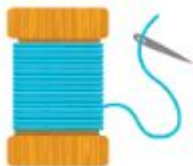
Adult reads text aloud to whilst child follows the text.

Echo reading

Child echoes back the section read by the adult, emulating their intonation, tone, speed, volume, expression, movement, use of punctuation etc.

Choral reading

Child and adult read together.



performance read

Child performs their reading to an audience.



Questions?

