



Phonics

Words are made up of small units of sound called **phonemes**. Phonics sessions teach children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that form words. This helps with learning to read words and to spell them.

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

GPCs

They are taught GPCs. This stands for **grapheme phoneme correspondences**. This simply means that they are taught all of the **phonemes (sounds)** in the English language and the ways of writing them down (**graphemes**). These phonemes are taught in a particular order in phases.

Blending

Children are taught to be able to blend. 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. 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.



What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Year 1 **Phonics Screening Check** is a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their **phonics** skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

The Phonics Screening Check consists of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read with their teacher. Non-words are a collection of phonemes that your child has been taught, but that don't mean anything.

Useful websites in supporting reading and phonics:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.theschoolrun.com

www.oxfordowl



