KEY STAGE 1

JUNE 2014

Phonics screening check 2014 scoring guidance

Standards & Testing Agency

Threshold mark

The threshold mark for the phonics screening check will be available on the Department for Education's website www.education.gov.uk/ks1 after Monday 30 June 2014.

If children do not meet the expected standard, schools must determine the most appropriate support for these children to help them catch up. These children must be considered for a re-take of the phonics screening check in the June of Year 2.

Pronunciation of pseudo-words

Some of the graphemes used in the check represent a number of different phonemes. When decoding a real word in the check, the child has to select the correct phoneme for the word, for example the 'ow' in 'blow' should not be pronounced as the 'ow' in 'cow'. However, when decoding a pseudo-word, all plausible alternative pronunciations are acceptable.

The tables on the next page provide guidance to teachers scoring the check on acceptable pronunciations of the pseudo-words in the check.

Regional pronunciations

Some of the pseudo-words in the screening check contain vowel digraphs that end with 'r', such as 'ar'. In a small number of regional dialects, the 'r' in words with these vowel digraphs is voiced and children who speak with these dialects will be known to their teachers. For these children, pseudo-words with a vowel digraph ending in 'r', such as 'flarm' may be pronounced as /ðɑːrd/ or /θɑːrd/ instead of /ðɑːd/ or /θɑːd/. These pronunciations are acceptable alternatives in the relevant pseudo-words.

Section 1

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
vol	This item uses the 'v' from 'vet' and rhymes with 'doll'.	/vɒl/
teg	This item uses the 't' from 'tip' and rhymes with 'peg'.	/tɛg/
jat	This item uses the 'j' from 'job' and rhymes with 'cat'.	/dʒæt/
ind	This item combines the 'i' from 'ill' and the 'nd from 'end'.	/ɪnd/
tull	This item uses the 't' from 'time' and rhymes with 'cull'. All regional pronunciations of the 'u' are acceptable.	/tʌl/ or /tʊl/
shog	This item uses the 'sh' from 'sheep' and rhymes with 'fog'.	/ʃɒg/
foid	This item uses the 'f' from 'fine' and rhymes with 'void'.	/fɔɪd/
thard	This item uses either the 'th' from 'this' or the 'th' from 'thin' and rhymes with 'shard'.	/ðɑːd/ or /θɑːd/
frem	This item uses the 'fr' from 'frog' and rhymes with 'them'.	/frɛm/
cloin	This item uses the 'cl' from 'climb' and rhymes with 'join'.	/klɔɪn/
bulm	This item combines the 'bul' from 'bulb' and the 'm' from 'mask'. All regional pronunciations of the 'u' are acceptable.	/bʌlm/ or /bʊlm/
harnd	This item uses the 'har' from 'harsh' and ends with the 'nd' from 'stand'.	/hɑːnd/

Section 2

Pseudo-word	Acceptable pronunciations	Phonemic representation
jair	This item uses the 'j' from 'joke' and rhymes with 'lair'.	/dʒɛə/
clain	This item uses the 'cl' from 'clip' and rhymes with 'plain'.	/kleɪn/
yewn	This item uses the 'y' from 'yes' and rhymes with 'strewn'.	/juːn/
tabe	This item uses the 't' from 'tile' and rhymes with 'babe'.	/teɪb/
clisk	This item uses the 'cl' from 'close' and rhymes with 'whisk'.	/klɪsk/
thrand	This item uses the 'thr' from 'throw' and rhymes with 'sand'.	/ðrænd/ or /θrænd/
strad	This item uses the 'str' from 'strike' and rhymes with 'sad'.	/stræd/
scroy	This item uses the 'scr' from 'scream' and rhymes with 'boy'.	/skrɔɪ/