

Phonics Milestone Checklist

Phonics doesn't happen on a fixed schedule — some kids decode at 3, some at 6, both are normal. Use this checklist to track real progress against the age-by-age timeline from the phonics-stages-by-age guide.

Name: _____

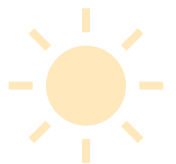
Date: _____

How to use this worksheet

- 1 Find your child's current age section.
- 2 Check off each milestone as you observe it.
- 3 Write the date next to each one — it's motivating to look back on later.
- 4 Don't worry about checking every box before moving to the next age's page; the sections overlap on purpose.

Tip

If your child is 6+ months behind on several milestones in a row, or you notice the 'signs your child needs extra support' from the blog post, it's worth a conversation with their teacher.



Age 2 — Pre-Phonics (Sound Awareness)

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

Notices rhymes in songs ("cat, hat, bat")

Date achieved: _____

☐

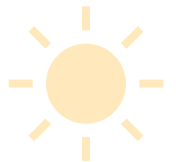
Claps syllables (ba-na-na, three claps)

Date achieved: _____

☐

Recognises their own name in writing

Date achieved: _____



Age 3 — First Letter Sounds

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

Knows 4-10 letter sounds (not names)

Date achieved: _____

☐

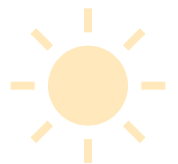
Picks the right picture when you say a sound

Date achieved: _____

☐

Tries blending 2 sounds (/a/-/t/ into "at")

Date achieved: _____



Age 4 — Blending 3-Sound Words

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

Knows 15-22 single-letter sounds

Date achieved: _____

☐

Reads CVC words: cat, sit, top, bug

Date achieved: _____

☐

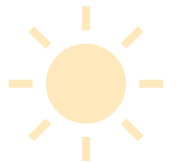
Hears 3 sounds in a spoken word (segmenting)

Date achieved: _____

☐

Begins to recognise some letter names too

Date achieved: _____



Age 5 — Digraphs and Short Books

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

All 26 single letters solid

Date achieved: _____

☐

Learns digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

Date achieved: _____

☐

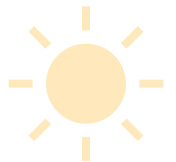
Reads 4-letter CCVC and CVCC words (stop, fast)

Date achieved: _____

☐

Reads 4-6 page decodable books (Sam sat on the mat)

Date achieved: _____



Age 6 — Long Vowels and Vowel Teams

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

Long vowels with magic-e (cake, bike, bone, cute)

Date achieved: _____

☐

Vowel teams (ai, ee, oa, oo, ow, ou)

Date achieved: _____

☐

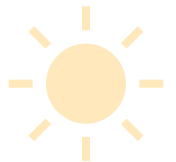
Reads short chapter books with picture support

Date achieved: _____

☐

Spells 2-syllable words by sounding out

Date achieved: _____



Age 7 — Fluency and Comprehension

Check off each milestone as your child achieves it — six months either side of this is normal.

☐

Decodes most regular words on first sight

Date achieved: _____

☐

Reads 50-80 words per minute aloud with expression

Date achieved: _____

☐

Tackles silent letters (knee, wrist, lamb)

Date achieved: _____

☐

Reads for meaning, not just decoding

Date achieved: _____

