

Progress Checks

Five quick checks: start of the year, October, December, March and May

Each check takes about ten minutes with one child. It shows what has stuck and what needs another look. It is not a test your child can fail: first graders grow in jumps, and a skill that is shaky in December is often solid by March.

How to do a check

- 1 Print the child pages and the score page. Your child looks at the child pages; you hold the score page.
- 2 Point to one item at a time. Cover the rest with a sheet of paper if the page is busy.
- 3 Tick each item right on the first try. If your child says "I don't know", move on.
- 4 Made-up words (like "vap") check sounding out: a child cannot know them by heart. Explain that they are silly words.
- 5 From Check 3, time the story for one minute. Reading speed is one sign among many; reading with understanding matters most.
- 6 Copy the totals onto the year record at the back.

What the results mean

Most right: carry on. A few missed: add them to the warm-ups and reread those weeks' books for the next two weeks. Many missed: slow down, repeat the last month's phonics weeks, and check again in three weeks. Each score page ends with what to do next for that check.

The checks

Check 1 • Start of the year (before week 1)

Knows the sounds of all the letters and sh, ch and th, reads short-vowel words like cat and sun, reads the kindergarten sight words, counts to 100 and adds and takes away within 10.

Check 2 • End of October (after week 8)

Reads words with sh, ch, th, ck, ng and nk, blends at the start and end, and tch and dge; reads the heart words from weeks 1 to 8; knows adding and taking away facts within 10.

Check 3 • End of December (after week 16)

Reads silent e words, two-part words like rabbit, and soft c and g; reads the heart words to week 16; reads a short story at about 25 words a minute; adds within 20 and finds a missing number.

Check 4 • End of March (after week 29)

Reads vowel teams (ai, ay, ee, ea, oa, ow, igh, ie, oo, ew, ue), y as a vowel, all, and ar, or, er, ir, ur, oi and oy; reads a story at about 45 words a minute; knows tens and ones, ten more and ten less, and time to the half hour.

Check 5 • End of May (after week 36)

Reads ou, ow, au and aw, words with -ing and -ed, ild, ind, old and ost, and compound words; reads a story at about 60 words a minute; adds two-digit numbers, counts coins and knows halves and fourths.

Progress Check 1

Start of the year · Score page for the grown-up

Name _____

What to expect by now: Knows the sounds of all the letters and sh, ch and th, reads short-vowel words like cat and sun, reads the kindergarten sight words, counts to 100 and adds and takes away within 10. Do the check in a quiet ten minutes, over two days if your child gets tired. Tick each one right on the first try. Don't teach during the check; note it and come back to it.

Letter sounds: says the sound

z	☐	k	☐	v	☐	h	☐	o	☐	th	☐	c	☐	a	☐
y	☐	x	☐	e	☐	i	☐	m	☐	j	☐	l	☐	f	☐
n	☐	sh	☐	d	☐	s	☐	p	☐	ch	☐	u	☐	qu	☐
g	☐	b	☐	r	☐	w	☐	t	☐						

Sounds ____ of 29

Real words: reads the word

hop	☐	bed	☐	cat	☐	sip	☐	map	☐	lid	☐
rug	☐	sun	☐	kit	☐	jog	☐	fan	☐	wet	☐

Real words ____ of 12

Made-up words: sounds out and blends

all the sounds right counts, even if slow

zid	☐	fep	☐	mog	☐	vap	☐	lun	☐	tib	☐
-----	--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	-----	--------------------------

Made-up words ____ of 6

Heart words: reads it in about 3 seconds

to	☐	go	☐	like	☐	me	☐	it	☐	he	☐
see	☐	we	☐	is	☐	can	☐	my	☐	the	☐
in	☐	she	☐	and	☐						

Heart words ____ of 15

The story

29 words

Listen as your child reads. Count the words missed. Up to about one missed word in ten is fine at this point.

☐ Words missed: _____

☐ Tells you what happened in the story

Progress Check 1

Start of the year · Score page, continued

Spelling: say each word, then a sentence with it

right sounds in the right order count

map ☐ pig ☐ sun ☐ bed ☐ hop ☐

☐ Writes the sentence: "I can hop." (capital, spaces, end mark)

Math

☐ Quick facts, about 3 seconds each (answers: 5, 5, 7, 6, 8, 3, 3, 3, 5, 4): ____ of 10

☐ Reads the numbers: ____ of 10

☐ Counts the pictures (13, 17)

☐ Counts out loud from 1. Goal: 100. Got to: _____

☐ Story problem, read aloud: Mia has 5 shells. She finds 3 more. How many shells does she have now? (8)

Spoken: Blend it

Say the sounds. Ask: what word is it?

☐ /s/ /i/ /t/ (sit)

☐ /m/ /o/ /p/ (mop)

☐ /f/ /l/ /a/ /g/ (flag)

☐ /n/ /e/ /s/ /t/ (nest)

Spoken: Break it apart

Say the word. Ask for each sound.

☐ map (/m/ /a/ /p/)

☐ fish (/f/ /i/ /sh/)

☐ bug (/b/ /u/ /g/)

☐ stop (/s/ /t/ /o/ /p/)

What next: Most right: start at week 1. Many letter sounds or short-vowel words missed: spend two weeks on the free kindergarten Level 1 readers and the sound games, then start week 1.

Letter Sounds

Progress Check 1 · Start of the year

Grown-up: point to each one and ask, "What sound does it make?"

z

k

v

h

o

th

c

a

y

x

e

i

m

j

l

f

n

sh

d

s

p

ch

u

qu

g

b

r

w

t

Read the Words

Progress Check 1 · Start of the year

Grown-up: point to each word. Sounding it out first is fine.

Real words

hop

bed

cat

sip

map

lid

rug

sun

kit

jog

fan

wet

Made-up words: sound them out

zid

fep

mog

vap

lun

tib

Heart words

to

go

like

me

it

he

see

we

is

can

my

the

in

she

and

Read the Story

Progress Check 1 · Start of the year

Grown-up: ask the child to read the story aloud.

Sam has a red hat. A cat sat on the hat. Sam can see the cat. "Get off my hat!" said Sam. The cat ran. Sam got his hat.

Write the words you hear

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____

Write the sentence you hear

Math

Progress Check 1 · Start of the year

Grown-up: point to each one. The child says the answer out loud.

Quick facts

$2 + 3$

$4 + 1$

$5 + 2$

$3 + 3$

$6 + 2$

$5 - 2$

$4 - 1$

$6 - 3$

$7 - 2$

$8 - 4$

Read the numbers

7

12

15

19

23

38

46

61

74

90

How many? Count the pictures.

