

Phonics Plus Five Skills Check

The Skills Check is a quick measure you can use to see if Phonics Plus Five is the right system to help your child progress in reading. It should be used only if your child is already able to read simple books and write complete sentences. (If your child is not yet reading, please see the section on our site for children who are not yet reading.)

If the results of this quick check indicate that your child has already achieved the skills taught in the Phonics Plus Five programs, then “congratulations!” your child is ready to move on to more advanced levels of instruction. But if the Skills Check shows that your child has not yet mastered those skills, then you will find that Phonics Plus Five is an ideal way to teach all the skills for effective reading and writing.

The Skills Check involves a simple two-step process that takes about 5-10 minutes. The first step requires reading; the second writing. Before starting, take a few minutes to read through the material so that you have a clear idea of what you will be doing with your child.

And remember, though you may be tempted, do not offer your child any help. At this point, you want to check your child’s skills and any help will prevent you from getting an accurate picture.

When you are ready to begin the Skills Check, make sure that:

- you and your child are alone in a quiet room
- you are seated next to each other at a desk or table
- your child is rested and alert
- you have the materials you need to carry out the skills check:
 1. lined paper
 2. a thin magic marker or a pencil
- the materials are set out so that your child can see them clearly.

(this page is for your child to read)

The girl was never scared to walk
out there by herself.

Do most of the kids know how to read
their names?

When the computer went down, the girl
really started to yell.

Step 1: What to do:

Say to your child, "We are going to be doing some reading and writing."

Take the page headed "This is for your child to read" and fold it so your child sees only the first sentence. Say "Please read this to me." As your child reads, on this page enter a \surd in the box next to that word if it is correct and an X if it is not. (If your child cannot read a word, say, "That's all right. Let's move on to then next word.")

1. The girl was never scared to walk
out there by herself .

Repeat the above with each of the following sentences, making sure to fold page E so your child sees only one sentence at a time.

2. Do most of the kids know how to
read their names?

3. When the computer went down, the girl
really started to yell .

Enter the total number of \surd s above
on the line below

The total number of possible \surd s is 33

Moving On

If your child has 26 or more \surd s,
go on to Step 2.

If your child has 25 \surd s or fewer,
stop the Skills Check. He or she
can benefit from the
reading/writing programs in the
Phonics Plus Five system.

Step 2: What to do:

Say to your child, "This time, I am going to say those sentences and you will try to write them on this paper." Have several sheets of lined paper available along with a pencil or marker.

Making sure your child does not see the words on this page, say, "First I'll read the whole sentence and you just listen." Read the whole of the first sentence aloud. Then say the words one at a time, pausing to allow your child time to write the word. For example, with the first sentence, say "Write 'the'." After your child writes the word, then say, "Write 'girl'."

Continue in this way until the sentence has been completed.

While your child is writing a word, allow him or her as much time as needed to complete it. But if there is a pause of more than 5 seconds, or if your child cannot write the word, say, "Let's move on."

1. The girl was never scared to walk
out there by herself .

Repeat the above with each succeeding sentence, providing a fresh sheet of paper for each sentence.

2. Do most of the kids know how
to read their names ?

3. When the computer went down , the girl
really started to yell .

After your child has written the sentences, allow him or her to leave the room while you score the writing. Take the papers your child has written on and score the sentences by placing, on this page, a \checkmark next to each word that is fully correct and an X if it is not.

Errors include:

- a) omitting a letter (e.g., writing 'never' as 'nevr')
- b) inserting a letter that is not in the word (e.g., writing 'walk' as 'wauk')
- c) putting a letter in the wrong place (e.g., writing 'girl' as 'gril')
- d) failing to use capital letters where appropriate or using capital letters when not appropriate.

In addition, check for the ending punctuation mark. If your child has used the appropriate period or question mark, enter a \checkmark in the box next to that mark.

<p>Enter the total number of \checkmarks on the line below</p> <p>_____</p> <p>The total number of possible \checkmarks is 36</p>	<p>Moving On</p> <p>If your child has 26 or more \checkmarks, congratulations. Your child's skills are beyond those offered by these programs. He or she can move on to higher levels of instruction.</p> <p>If your child has 25 \checkmarks or fewer, stop the Skills Check. He or she can benefit from the reading/writing programs in the Phonics Plus Five system.</p>
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