An activity to help with the phonics screening check

All children in Year 1 in England will take part in the phonics screening check in the week commencing 12 June. The check is designed to determine their phonics knowledge and show what progress has been made.

As part of the test children will be asked to read 20 'non-words' or 'nonsense words'. This is a good way to assess how well they can work out words using their decoding skills. Each nonsense word on the check is accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature, to signify to children that these are not real words. The sheets here contain nonsense words similar to the ones that will be used in the check, and using them will help your child to practise and be ready for the check.

How to use the sheets:

1. Print off all 7 pages. Put the 5 pages of words in order. (See the small numbers at the top.)

2. On the page with the imaginary creature on, ask your child to draw 19 other such creatures. Cut these out and arrange these near the sheets.

3. Tell your child that the words on the pages are not real words, but are the names of sorts of imaginary creatures: he/she will read each of the words, choosing one of his/her creatures to go with it.

4. Ask your child to work out each word and read it to you. Choose a picture for each word.

Please note:

- The 5 word pages can be stuck onto A4 card and cut into 20 cards: these can be presented to the child one at a time to read.
- As an alternative, you/your child can draw imaginary creatures and you can cut these out and stick each one next to a word. Your child can then read the words.
- All the words appear in the box below: you can record the child's answers here if you so wish.

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|------|-------|--------|
| | dorp | jope |
| lom | pell | swend |
| bex | creck | pife |
| chim | yart | glay |
| vung | wess | froust |
| olk | scrad | shrain |
| zost | clurt | |
| | | |



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