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 recognize 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: _____