

Open Letter opposing the Year One Phonics Screening Check signed by Alan Gibbons and 71 other authors

The Phonics Screening Test for Year One children (five to six years old) will check their ability to 'decode' a list of words out of context, some of which will be 'nonsense' words. We are greatly concerned by the pressure and anxiety that this test will be putting on teachers, families and children and that many parents and carers will, by law, be told that their children have 'failed'.

Talking about children failing, we believe, gives the wrong message about reading just at the time when the most recent Ofsted report 'Moving English Forward' (2012) recommends that 'all schools should develop policies to promote reading for enjoyment'.

We believe that children need more reading rather than more testing and that the resources designated for these tests would be better directed at teacher training, books, libraries and librarians.

Alan Gibbons	Myetta Godwin	Yakoob Ahmed
Michael Rosen	Dugaldtheelder	Victoria Clark
Roger McGough	Ferguson	Denise Martin
Kathy Lette	Norton Juster	Alexander Gordon Smith
Darren Shan	Ted Dewan	Rosemary Dun
Malorie Blackman	Malaika Rose Stanley	Paul Munden NAWE
Terry Jones	Gwen Grant	Rhys Bevan
Kevin Crossley Holland	John Shelley	Michaela Morgan
Bali Rai	Lynn Breeze	Julia Golding
Beverley Naidoo	Malcolm Rose	A F Harrold
Paul Doweswell	Michael Lawrence	Mao Oliver-Semenov
Tommy Donbavand	Damian Harvey	Tina Codling
John Dougherty	Enid Richemont	Graeme Hind
Mary Hoffman	Caroline Pitcher	Pat Shore
Jon Mayhew	Cathy McLellan	Karen Fallon
Berlie Doherty	Steve Skidmore	Elaine Borthwick
Steve Weatherill	Steve Barlow	Steve Fallon
Jeremy Strong	Leila Rasheed	Julia Bard
Anne Rooney	Odetta Elliott	Sharon Tregenza
Eileen Browne	Harriet Castor	Sarah Walker
Dennis Hamley	Ian McLaughlin	Jennifer Wooliscroft
Helena Pielichaty	Dawn Finch	Amy Rainbow
Marion Rose	Fiona Branson	Kate Love
John O'Leary	Andy Channelle	Jonathan Kemp
Kathryn White	Martyn Hobbs	