

Fluency

Hello Families,

I compiled some information about reading fluency and included some strategies for home reading. Some readers require some extra support to build fluent reading, others do not. As a team we can better support our children. Let us know if you have any additional questions.

What is reading fluency?

Fluency is the ability to **read** a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. There are many dimensions within fluency, it is not all about speed. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they were speaking. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically.

Why is fluency important?

Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. By reading at an appropriate pace, with proper phrasing and intonation, expression, and emphasis on the correct words, a reader communicates that the text is making sense (Rasinski 2010). If they are reading and working hard at the word level, it is challenging to pull it altogether and think about what they are reading.

Some hints to improve reading fluency:

- Drop down 1-2 levels in books to gain momentum, practice what good reading feels like.
- Re-read passages or poetry.
- Re-read section for fluency / expression.
- Practice reading high frequency word phrases (we have these).
- Rehearse lines from a script.
- Try "paired reading" for a while (4-6 weeks). Parent keeps the pace of the reading without paying attention to errors (can discuss teaching points at end). Adjust your reading rate and intonation to match child's fluent reading (or slightly faster), and gently "push" when he is hesitant. For example, if a portion of book seems difficult, read in a somewhat louder voice and give more verbal cues. When he is reading successfully, tone voice down so that it provides a lighter level of support. This gives child the appropriate pace. *We have more information on this.*

Some prompts to give a child working on fluency:

- *I can tell you understood what you just learned, based on how you read that.*
- *Now that you know all those words (in that part or sentence), read it again and smooth it out.*
- *You read all those words correctly, now reread to make it sound smooth.*
- *Now try to read those few words all in one breath.*
- *Scoop under those words.*
- *It sounded like all those words were in one scoop, in one breath. Nice job!*
- *You sounded just like the character! Well done!*
- *Think about the feeling the character is having.*
- *Try to sound like the character.*
- *Read it like you'd say it.*