

Fluency

Reading Fluency is the ability to read with expression, intonation, and a natural flow that sounds like talking. Fluency is NOT *just* the speed at which one reads. That is reading rate. A fluent reader does read quickly; however, they also focus on phrased units of meaning. A child may read quickly but may not necessarily be fluent- often skipping over punctuation. Fluent readers need to have a solid bank of sight words that they can rely on.

Non-fluent readers may sound choppy, robotic, or too speedy.

Fluency is increased when a child reads and rereads the same passage (book) aloud several times. It is also very important to model phrased and fluent reading. Phrases may get longer as the reading level increases. Children need to train their eyes to read more than one word at a time. (Do NOT use this terminology with them, yet) Focus on fluency early! Bad habits can be hard to break.

****Practice fluency with books or nursery rhymes that are fairly easy & familiar (very few new words) ****

What can parents do or say ?

1) Make sure they take the finger out (usually after early 1st grade, check with teacher)

Child *should* use the finger temporarily :

- When you lose your place
- A group of words are tricky and you need to slow down- temporarily
- To break a word up- looking for parts you know/don't know, take off endings & look at base/root words. (May be done with eyes if able)
- If child needs help tracking line to line, perhaps in chapter books, try running the bookmark ABOVE the line they're on- sort of pushing them down the page

2) When Listening to your child read say:

Make your reading sound like talking,

We-don't-talk-like-a-robot

Read that sentence like this, " _____ "

This is how you read that _____ [Echo back the way they just read]

Make it smooth or Put those words together

Read it all -- Frame phrases with your, the adult's, fingers

i.e. (The mouse ran) (in the house.)

Watch your punctuation, don't run through the periods, pay attention to the talking marks (quotation marks), use expression

3) Continue reading to your child modeling smooth, phrased, & expressive reading.

1st grade- nightly or partner read sections or pages

2nd grade- partner read pages OR whole chapters/stories at least 3 times per week