

PRACTICING READING FLUENCY AT HOME

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly with appropriate expression. The child's reading should mirror the way he or she talks.

The best strategy for improving fluency is to provide opportunities for your child to read the same passage orally several times.

Research shows that repeated readings lead to **improved comprehension**.

What your child should read

"Fluency develops as a result of many opportunities to practice reading with a high degree of success. Therefore, your child should practice orally rereading text that is reasonably **easy**" for him/her. (Put Reading First).

How to have your child read

- Assisted reading - The adult reads the text first which provides the child with a model. The child then reads the same passage with assistance if necessary. Continue rereadings until the child reads the way he talks. (3-4 times).
- Echo reading - This is similar to the first technique. The adult reads one line and the child "echoes" the same line. The adult gradually increases the speed and amount of text to be echoed.
- Choral reading - The adult reads the text first. Then the child reads with the adult. After several rereadings together, the child should be able to read the passage independently.
- Taped reading - The child practices reading text and then records himself/herself.
- Timed reading - The adult times the child reading a passage. The child tries to increase his/her speed in subsequent readings. Children love trying to beat their previous times.
- Reading more words - The child reads for one minute. Mark the last word read. Try to read past the marked word on subsequent readings.
- Performance reading - The child chooses a favorite passage or page of a story and practices in preparation for a "performance" for mom or dad. Poetry, plays, jokes, and riddles are also good for performances.

Remember to read with expression while gaining speed! The development of fluency is also dependent upon daily independent reading and word recognition skills (sight vocabulary, phonics, and other strategies), so these skills should also be reinforced.

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