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Growing Our Readers

**Parent Newsletter
Volume 2**

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Our Topic: Fluency

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What is Oral Reading Fluency?

Reading fluency is the ability to read quickly and easily. It means that a child can recognize and decode words accurately and automatically and understand the words as they are being read. Children who do not read fluently (choppy readers) have to work hard on the mechanics of reading and have little mental energy left to think about the meaning of what they are reading.

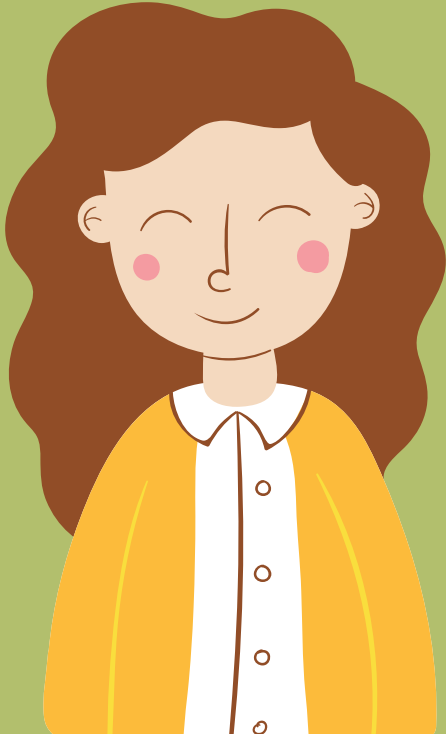
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How do I know if my child is reading fluently?

A simple way to know if your child is reading fluently is to listen to him/her read grade level text aloud. Have your child read a paragraph from a book or passage. As your child reads, consider the following:

- **How many words does he/she struggle with?**
- **How easily is he/she sounding out an unknown word?**
- **Is he/she reading with expression? (for example, pausing at commas, periods, etc.)**
- **Can he/she retell the story or summarize what the paragraph/story was about?**

How can I help my child read more fluently?



To help your child develop reading fluency:

- **Model fluent reading.**
- **Provide opportunities when your child can hear you read aloud. Be sure to read with expression pausing appropriately at punctuation marks and changing voice for characters.**
- **When having your child practice reading aloud, help your child choose books at his/her independent reading level. Use the 5-finger rule as a guide. This means that a child shouldn't struggle with more than 5 words on a page.**



- **Repeated reading has proven to be one of the best strategies for developing reading fluency. Children should be provided with many opportunities to read the same passage (or story) orally several times. It is best if the adult reads the passage (paragraph, story) first and then has the child read and re-read the same text. Typically reading the text 4 times is suggested when focusing on improving fluency skills.**
- **Paired reading is another strategy to improve oral reading fluency. Using this strategy, you and your child read the words aloud together. Be sure to read at your child's speed reading every word.**

Strategies to use at home:



- **Children benefit from listening to fluent readers read while following along in the book.**
- **Encourage your child to point to the words on the page while listening to the story as this helps to strengthen word recognition skills.**
- **When listening to your child read, when he/she comes to an unknown word, wait 5 seconds to allow him/her to use word attack strategy skills to figure out the word.**
- **If you have to provide the word for your child, be sure to have him/her repeat the word aloud while pointing to the word in text.**

Parent Resources

Check out these links below for
fluency passages to read with your
child:

[Kindergarten fluency resources](#)

[First grade fluency resources](#)

[Second grade fluency resources](#)

