

*Reading fluency is the ability to read text accurately and quickly. It is the bridge to reading comprehension.*

## How Parents Can Promote Reading Fluency At Home

When reading your child is struggling to form each word, sound by sound it may make the child very frustrated. At a slow rate of reading, the overall meaning of the text will be difficult to understand.

Parents hope that their child will be able to string together words to form flowing sentences while reading. Working with your child at home can benefit the child's developing skill.

Reading fluency is the ability to read text accurately and quickly. It is the bridge to reading comprehension. When children focus their attention on word-by-word reading, they have littler attention left for comprehension. Research indicates that difficulty in knowing a word instantly (automatic word recognition) significantly affects and child's ability to comprehend what he or she is reading.

The ability to hear, identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words is called phonemic awareness. This skill is very important for reading fluency. Isolating and identifying sounds in spoken words and blending sounds in printed words are necessary for children to read words, sentences and longer text selections effortlessly.

Naming letters and objects quickly is a predictor of reading fluency. Letter reading is associated with recognition of the alphabet.



For fluency to occur, children must be able to name letters quickly and automatically. Children with learning difficulties will require much practice in order to identify letters automatically. Activities such as single-word drills help promote reading fluency. Children also need to be taught about word phrasing, word intonation and punctuation in order to read beyond the word level with the rhythm of spoken language.



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Published  
July 2014

Once children are able to read known words quickly and apply strategies to help with unknown words, they can read with greater comprehension. They are freed from the struggle to figure out what a word is, and they can bring their own background knowledge to connect with the information in the text and the author's ideas. Finally, repeated reading and oral practice helps children to read automatically and with expression.

#### **At home assistance**

Suggestions for parents to promote reading fluency at home by:

- Playing with sounds in words (phonemic awareness).
- Identifying and labeling letters and words with speed and accuracy (rapid naming).
- Through repeated oral reading.

You will learn what works best for your child. Work with your child's teachers by asking them to recommend reading material. Enjoy your time together and praise your child often for his or her effort to develop reading fluency.

#### **At the preschool level**

You can help your child by:

- Labeling everything you see to reinforce identification of objects and build vocabulary.
- Talking together a lot to develop oral language.
- Playing with words by segmenting and deleting sounds and syllables, b\_a\_t = bat, bat without the b is 'at', without the t is 'ba'.
- Identifying letter names and sounds
- Having your child pretend to read a story.

#### **For children at the early elementary level**

Parents can help with letter recognition by:

- Identifying magnetic letters on the refrigerator.

- Playing "Go Fish" for letters. The person with the most pairs wins and must also mix-up and read the letter cards in their pile at the end of the game. Time how fast it took and compare the time from game to game.

#### **To help children identify words**

Parents can:

- Play "Fish" and "Concentration" with words that your child learns in school.
- Ask your child to point out unknown words in text prior to reading a passage so you can identify the word before reading.

You and your child can take turns reading aloud to each other:

- You read the first passage to model fluent reading.
- Your child reads the same passage out loud, or you read it together.
- You give help with word recognition and provide a lot of encouragement as you continue to read the text together.
- Reread the book three to five times over the next few days.
- Choose books your child can read independently.
- You can help your child listen to others read.
- Use electronic books and have your child read along.

#### **Resources**

[National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)  
Materials for early learning.  
212-545-7510

#### [US Department of Education](#)

A list of early learning resources.  
800-872-5327