

FLUENCY



Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently* whether they are reading aloud or silently.

Here are some clues for parents that a child may have problems with fluency:

- He or she knows how to read words but seems to take a long time to read a short book or passage silently.
- He or she reads a book with no expression.
- He or she stumbles a lot and loses his/her place when reading something aloud.
- He or she reads very slowly.
- He or she moves his/her mouth when reading silently (subvocalizing).

What to do at home...

- Support and encourage your child. Realize that he or she is likely frustrated by reading.
- Check with your child's teachers to find out their assessment of your child's word decoding skills.
- If your child can decode words well, help him or her build speed and accuracy by:
 - Reading aloud and having your child match his voice to yours
 - Having your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times
 - Remind your child to pause between sentences and phrases
- Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.
- Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can "hear" the sound of fluent reading as he or she reads the book aloud.
- Use books on tapes; have your child follow along in the printed copy.