

COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 130

Parents play a key role in their children's literacy development and school success.

What is Fluency?

Reading fluency is the ability to read a text easily. It has four parts: 1) accuracy 2) rate 3) expression and 4) comprehension.

Accuracy: Reading words correctly is a key to developing fluency. When children can accurately and easily read the words in a text, they are able to think about what they are reading. To read a text, fluently, a child should be able to read almost all of the words easily.

Rate: When children read fluently, they read at an efficient rate. This means that they read quickly. Rate does not mean that children should read as fast as they possibly can.

Expression: Expression in fluency refers to the ability to read in a way that sounds like spoken language. The child uses appropriate emotion to read aloud, pauses for periods and commas, and emphasizes important words.

Comprehension: Fluency is the bridge between being able to read words and to comprehend or understand what is read. The real goal of reading fluency is to help children read a text with ease so they can focus on understanding what they read. When a child is able to combine accuracy, rate, expression, and comprehension, that is reading fluency.

What Can Parents Do to Promote Reading Fluency at Home?

1. Reading and rereading easy books is a great way to build your child's reading fluency. Have your child select a favorite book and read it aloud two or three times. This approach, called repeated reading, is one of the best ways to promote reading fluency.
2. Model fluent reading for your child by reading aloud daily. Be sure to use expression in your reading.
3. Echo reading helps to build reading fluency. You read a phrase, sentence, or paragraph aloud to model fluent reading. Your child then reads the same phrase, sentence, or paragraph afterwards, like an echo.
4. Have your child practice reading a simple book to share with a younger child. Once your child is able to read the book fluently, ask him or her to share it with the other child. Both children will benefit from the reading experience.
5. Poetry and nursery rhymes (younger children) can be used to practice fluency. Take turns with your child reading a short poem or nursery rhyme until he or she can read it fluently.
6. Use paired reading to build reading fluency with your child. First, you will read a poem or short passage to your child. Then, you and the child will read the poem or passage together several times. Finally, have your child read the poem or passage to you. A great book for paired reading is You Read to Me, I'll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together by Mary Ann Hoberman.
7. Review basic sight words with your child to make sure that he or she knows these words automatically. Knowing these common words on sight will help to improve your child's reading accuracy and rate. For lists of basic sight words and online sight word review games, visit the Learning Abilities Books website: www/learningbooks.net/Dolchflash.html or ask your child's teacher for a sight word list.
8. Choose a comic strip from the newspaper. Read the comic strip aloud, using expression. Then, ask your child to read the comic strip aloud.
9. Have your child practice reading a text aloud while riding in the car or on the bus. Your child will stay busy and entertained and this extra practice can make a big difference in your child's reading fluency.
10. Set aside reading practice time every day. Even five minutes of reading fluency practice using

any of the activities listed above will help to develop your child's reading fluency.

