

# Developing Reading Fluency

Reading fluency is the ability to quickly and accurately read a passage of text with expression. This means your child can read a sentence smoothly while recognizing most of the words.

In KS1, you will notice that many of the books have word lists inside the front cover. It would be useful to pre-read and practice these together before starting the text so that the words are fresh in their memory.

Use a ruler or finger to follow along the text, pointing to each word as you read it.

Reinforce recall of words that your child already knows, or has sounded out on a previous page, so that they don't keep sounding out the same words but start to recognise them.

Listen to audiobooks - these are great models of reading fluency! You could even follow along in the text version of the story at the same time.

Practice 'echo reading' where the adult reads a line, or section of a book. Try to model clear reading with fluency and expression. The child then reads the line back to you, trying to match the way you read it.

Break sentences into smaller phrases.

Pay attention to punctuation in sentences as you read

Use a clear, loud voice that can be heard aloud.

- Full stop - pause and take a breath
- Exclamation mark - voice goes up
- Question mark - voice goes down
- Comma - slow down and take a little breath

Read at a calm, smooth pace.

Use your expression, or intonation, in your voice

- This means your voice matches the feeling of the passage, going up and down to emphasise certain parts and so that the meaning is clear.
- Use different voices for different characters
- Make your reading 'sound like talking'

Read a passage three times

1. To decode unfamiliar words
2. To ask questions to clarify the meaning of the story or new vocabulary
3. Read the words correctly
4. Improve your pace each time

Re-reading a book several times to build up confidence with the text and gives the opportunity to act on guidance to improve.