

Reading Fluency

Information For Parents

What is Reading Fluency?

Reading fluency is the capacity to read words in connected text with sufficient **accuracy**, **rate**, and **prosody** to comprehend what is read.

- **Accuracy** is the ability to read words correctly.
- Automaticity refers to the ability to read letters or words automatically without having to think about it.
- **Rate** is the speed at which a reader reads text.
- **Prosody** is the ability to read with expression, including volume, pitch, tone, emphasis, and phrasing. Fluent reading should sound like speech.



(Birsh & Carreker, 2018; Stahl & Kuhn, 2002)

Why is Reading Fluency Important?

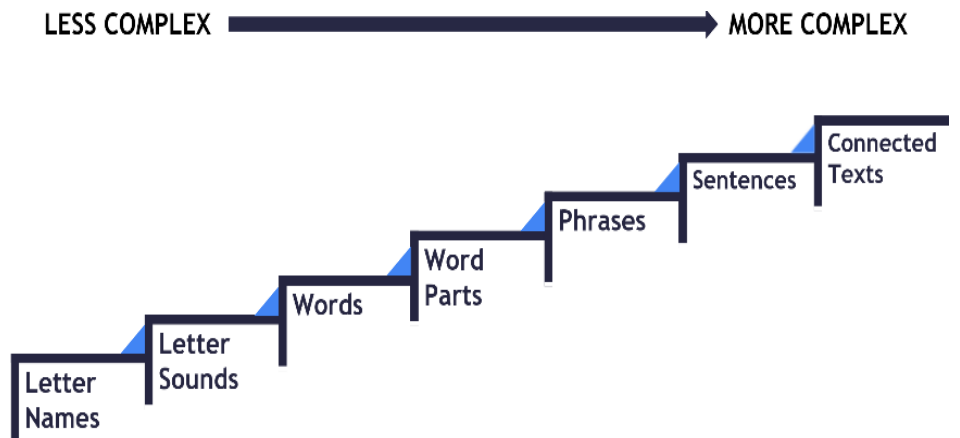
Reading fluency is 1 of 5 essential components of reading. It is the bridge connecting Word Recognition and Language Comprehension.



(Gough & Tunmer, 1986; Kilpatrick, 2015)

Reading fluency is the outcome of a progression of mastered skills and subskills.

Fluency is a critical part of complex skill development. Reading, like playing an instrument or driving a car, is a complex skill made of many sub-skills that require extensive practice to seem effortless.



What Does Reading Fluency Instruction Look Like at School?

Fluency is best taught **directly, explicitly, and systematically**, and then **practiced** until skills become automatic so children can shift their attention to comprehend what they read.



Kindergarten

- Focus on accuracy with decoding
- Fluency practice with letter naming, letter sounds, word reading



First Grade

- Focus is still primarily on accuracy with decoding
- Fluency practice with letter sounds, word reading, connected text



Second/Third Grades

- Focus shifts to include all aspects of fluency; accuracy, rate, and prosody
- Fluency practice in connected text

(Reitsma, 1983a, 1983b)

How Can You Support Reading Fluency at Home?

Reading Together:

- You and your child read the same thing aloud at the same time.
- When you read at the same time, make sure your child follows along by pointing to each word. You can slow your pace of reading down a little when you read at the same time.

Echo Reading:

- You read part of a book aloud and then your child reads the same part aloud. Thus, the child echoes what you read.
- As you echo read with your child, make sure that he or she follows along while you read by looking at the words as you read them.
- Your child should point to the words as he or she reads the same thing you read. This is to make sure your child is paying attention to the words and not just repeating what you say.

Alternated Reading:

- You and your child take turns reading a paragraph, page, or chapter aloud.
- Your child continues reading, picking up where you left off.

Additional Resources

Please visit the [Colorado Department of Education \(CDE\) Parent Resource website](#) for more information about the Colorado READ Act, READ Plans, and the Science of Reading.



References

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