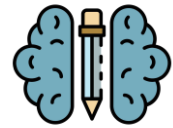




#TalkingReadingLearning

Sharing our learning with you!



EDITION 1:



READING FLUENCY – WHY IT MATTERS!

DO YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE A BETTER READER? THEN, WE NEED TO START WITH FLUENCY!

What is fluency?

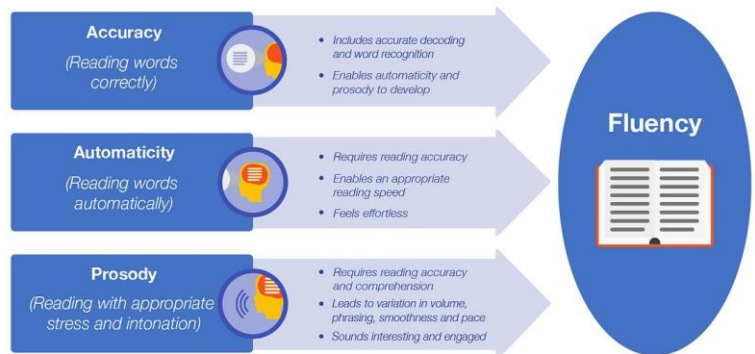
A fluent reader is a child who can correctly pronounce words immediately without thinking about it. They can read smoothly and effortlessly, and are able to decode (sound out) words while still understanding what the text is about.

Why does it matter?

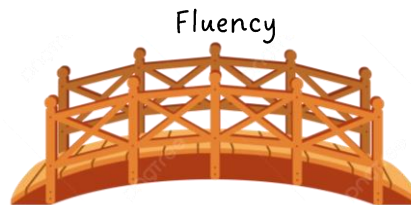
Fluent readers can recognise words automatically, which allows them to focus on understanding (comprehending) the text.

This automaticity allows them to free up their working memory (a part of our brain which can only hold a few pieces of information in one go). This means that their memory can then be focused on comprehending (understanding) the text.

Figure 5: Reading fluency



Fluency is described as the bridge between recognising words and understanding what a text is about.



Recognising words

Understanding a text

How can you help?

Repeated reading: encourage your child to read something more than once - this could include their reading books. The more times they read it, the more deeply they will understand what they are reading.

Read together: this allows children to see how a text should be read (modelled) and then allows them to copy.

Encourage your child to read LOTS of types of books: magazines, newspapers, picture books, novels. Visit the library and loan out books, which your child can then read with you/by themselves.



Myth: Fluent readers are fast readers

Myth busted: Children who read fast sometimes miss words out or misread words, so they may not always understand what they are reading. This can make them confused. Encourage your child to read at a pace which allows them to read all of the text. They will get quicker as you read the text more than once.

Myth: Reading a text once is enough.

Myth busted: Repeated reading (reading the same text more than once) allows children to rehearse these texts that may be harder. This improves their fluency and comprehension.

Consider these things:

- Is your child reading with expression?
- Are they reading loudly enough?
- Are they reading too quick/too slow?
- Does your child understand the meaning of words they are reading?
- Can your child talk about what they have just read?