

Reading With Your Child

There are several ways to work with your child at home that can help your child improve reading fluency, the ability to read more quickly and smoothly, with expression. Reading at a good rate helps a young reader understand what they read better. Here are some ways to help build a child's reading fluency:

1. Paired Reading

The best books to choose are ones that don't have too many words that your child will struggle with. Sit side by side with your child so that both of you can easily see the text. Begin reading together, reading just a little faster than your child would normally read alone. Point to the words as you are reading. Ask your child from time to time to tell you what is happening.

2. Repeated Reading

Once you and your child have read a chunk of text together, ask your child to read it alone--smoothly and at a good rate. Rereading text several times really builds reading fluency. Your child will also build sight vocabulary through this process.

3. Echo Reading

Echo reading can be done a few different ways, depending on your child's needs. Echo reading is usually done with a better reader reading a page or paragraph to the child. Then the child immediately reads the text alone (as an "echo").

4. Retelling Skills

Reading smoothly at a good pace helps children understand what they read better. It is good practice for children to tell the important events in the books they read in an organized and understandable way, beginning with what happened at the beginning, then the middle, and finally the end.

Reading with your child is so important. Thank you for your interest in trying different ways to help your child become a successful reader. As you choose things to read, keep it fun and positive.