

FLUENCY

Fluency can be thought of as a skill that bridges decoding skills and linguistic knowledge. As students gain automaticity in decoding and connect to the meaning of a text as a piece of communication, their skills come together to yield fluent reading.

Decoding Skills



Linguistic Knowledge

Three Characteristics of Fluent Reading



ACCURATE READING

Students correctly read words on the page.



APPROPRIATE RATE

Students read at a speed that is not too slow or too fast.



PROSODY

The expression students use when reading, including intonation, pauses, and phrasing.



HOW ARE FLUENCY SKILLS MEASURED?

- Automaticity (accuracy and rate) is often measured using simple one-minute words-correct-per-minute (WCPM) tasks.
- Prosody is often assessed with rubrics that address pauses, intonation, and expression students use when reading.

HOW SHOULD WE TEACH FLUENCY?

- Find the subcomponent(s) that need instruction because they all need to be strong!
- Students may need to build or remediate the foundations of phonological awareness, letter familiarity, and phonics.
- Fluency must be addressed through systematic and explicit teaching.

WHY IS FLUENCY IMPORTANT?

It is a critical pathway to reading comprehension!

Reading smoothly and at an appropriate pace or rate indicates a student has developed some automaticity and is able to retrieve previously learned words effortlessly. When less effort is required to stop and decode words, more attention and effort can be shifted to making meaning of text.



HOW CAN WE PRACTICE READING FLUENTLY?

- Rereading books
- Partner reading
- Echo reading
- Choral reading
- Use phrase-cued texts
- Focus on phrasing, intonation and expression
- Readers theater
- And more!



Don't forget to remediate gaps in foundational knowledge and skills such as phonics knowledge in addition to providing reading fluency practice.