



Family and Tutor Toolkit: Fluency

RIDE Literacy Learning Lab for Dyslexia,
Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia

To access the full recording with Dr. Jan Hasbrouck, [click here](#).

What is this kit for?

This kit helps your child build fluency when reading words or text. By engaging in fluency practice, your child will:

- Build confidence with reading words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs
- Improve their fluency of sentence reading
- Improve their reading comprehension of the texts (or books) they are practicing with you

What is Fluency and Why is it So Important?

Fluency is the ability to read text accurately, quickly, and with proper expression. If you break down this definition, you'll notice that there are three parts:

*Reasonably **accurate reading**, at an **appropriate rate**, with **suitable expression**, that leads to accurate and **deep comprehension and motivation** to read.*

Another way to think about reading fluency is reading as if you were speaking to a friend.

Listening to your child read aloud is the best way to understand what is happening inside of their brain as they read. When you hear a child read one word at a time, or make many mistakes as they read, this impacts their ability to understand what the text is saying. On the other hand, if you hear a child reading as if they were talking, it is likely they do not have to focus on sounding out the words as they can give more of their attention and energy to the text. Not sure about what fluent readers sound like? Check out the videos included in this [Reading Rocket article](#).

How can I support fluency at home?

Listen in Every Day 👂📖	Ask your child to read to you everyday. Notice how they are reading the words, their pace, and their expression.
Model strong fluency 🗣️	Read a short section of a book aloud to your child. As you read, show what good reading sounds like by reading the words correctly, at a comfortable speed, and with expression. When you're finished, talk with your child about what they noticed about your reading and discuss what made it easy to understand.
Echo Read 🔄	Fluently model a sentence in a book your child is reading (this could even be a math problem or any short text your child needs practice with). Then, have your child read it, imitating your model.
Choral Read 📢	Fluently model a sentence in the text or in a book you are reading. Then, have your child read it with you, imitating your model. Need an example? Click here!
Partner Reading 👤👤	Take turns reading with your child. You can alternate sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph, or page by page, depending on the comfort of your child and the difficulty of the text.
Read it Again! 👁️👁️	Engage in the above practices (model, echo, choral, partner reading) with the same passage so that your child gets multiple opportunities to reread and hear themselves get better with each round.
Use Poetry 🎤	All of the above activities work really well with poetry, especially books that include poetry for two voices, such as the You Read to Me, I Read to You series.
Reader's Theatre 🎭	Find a reader's theatre passage at your students' grade level and act it out! Click here to find lots of good examples.
Be a Coach! 📢	Read with your child and provide feedback on their fluency. Need an example? Click here!
Correct Me! ✏️	After engaging in "Be a Coach," read a sentence or a few sentences aloud and have your child tell you how to be more fluent. This can be especially powerful when reading dialogue in a book, as children can easily point out when a caregiver is reading without expression.

For more tips read the book, *The Reading Comprehension Blueprint* by Nancy Hennessey.

How can I support fluency at home?

Caregiver Tips for Success

- **Fluency is more than reading rate**, which can sometimes be misinterpreted in school. When working with your child, remember that all three components matter!
- **Use school texts:** Fluency practice should use texts that are at students' grade level. Part of fluency practice includes rereading the same passage, so it's important to practice with texts that are challenging.

How can I support students I am tutoring with fluency?

Embedding Meaningful Fluency Practice

Daily and consistent fluency practice supports student confidence and comprehension of grade-level texts. The key is to make it a habit and include short bursts of fluency instruction into every session. There are two major ways to do this:

- **Option 1:** Integrate practices into the instruction in small ways (such as doing a model read at the beginning of the session and later on, having a student do a choral read with you). The more time a student spends with their eyes on text, the better off they will be.
- **Option 2:** Commit a set amount of time, such as 10 minutes, to engage with a fluency routine with materials you are already using. That might look like:
 - First, providing a short model read (250 words or less) and discussing what made you fluent
 - Second, engage in an echo read of the same passage, stopping after every sentence or so so the student can imitate your fluency
 - Third, engage in a choral read of the passage, reading it together fluently
 - If time, switch off and partner read the same passage.

Check out the [NWEA Protocols](#) or the [Tight10](#) for more ideas on how this routine could look based on the students' age, time you have for tutoring, content area and grade level.

Tips and Tricks for Tutoring

- **Know to what degree the HQCM incorporates fluency.** Following this guidance supports coherence between the work you are doing and what students receive in the classroom. Fluency work can be called by many names (such as Repeated Readings, Close Reading, Fluency Protocols, etc.) so it's imperative to be familiar with these materials so you can follow the same procedure learned in the classroom.
- If there are no fluency supports in the HQCM, make sure you are using an important portion of a **grade-level, challenging text** for fluency instruction whenever possible.
- **Check for understanding** anytime you are engaging in fluency work. Fluency is much more than speed, so attending to all three components of fluency (accuracy, rate and expression), and asking comprehension questions after reading is important to remind students of the ultimate goal for reading.
- Even when you aren't engaging in a specific fluency protocol with a student, you can always **check their fluency by asking them to "whisper read"** or read aloud to you for a moment, which will provide you lots of information about what is happening in their brain as they read.