

The Balanced Reader: Fluency and Phrasing

The three important skills to become a balanced reader are decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension.

Reading fluency is the ability to read at a good pace, with accuracy, and with the right expression. Fluent readers also understand what they're reading.



Here are some ways kids can improve their fluency:

- Listen to models of fluent reading, like read-alouds. Audiobooks can also be great models of reading fluency.
- Practice tricky words so kids can automatically recognize words.
- Have kids read a short text at their reading level several times. Count how many words they read correctly in one minute. Record the results on a graph. Repeat several times. (This is called “repeated readings.”) Soon they’ll see that their speed and accuracy improves.
- Read a sentence together. Then draw slash marks to “chunk” the text into meaningful phrases of three to five words. Kids should take a short pause at the slash marks when reading.

