

## The Balanced Reader: Fluency and Phrasing

Decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension are the three important skills to become a balanced reader.

Fluency and Phrasing- students ability to “read like you talk” using punctuation and the ability to break text into meaningful sentences.



There are many strategies you can use at home to improve fluency and phrasing. Here are a few simple ways to improve with practice, attention, and consistent feedback.

### 1. Model fluent reading

One of the best ways to improve a child’s reading fluency is to model it for them. Let the child see and hear what fluent reading should sound like. Make sure you include plenty of expressions and emotion while reading and model proper phrasing and pacing. Then ask your child to read the same passage in the same style or manner as you did.

### 2. Stopwatch readings

Another strategy that works for improving reading speed, which is also a major part of fluency, is asking your child to read a given passage in a set time frame. Here’s how it’s done: Set a stopwatch for one minute, and have your child read a passage with as few errors as possible. Notice where your child stops or breaks his fluency and work on improving those areas. Perhaps there was a word he couldn’t pronounce. Ask him to repeatedly pronounce the word after learning the meaning. Then once again, ask your child to read the passage with the timer set to one minute. This time the reading should be faster!

### 3. Choral read aloud sessions

“Choral reading,” is when a teacher or parent reads aloud and asks the children to follow at the same pace. Choral reading is another way to show your child what fluent reading should sound like. Choosing a book at the child’s independent reading level will make it easier for him/her to keep up with the accuracy and pace.

