



Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read smoothly and accurately.

A fluent reader can recognize words *instantly*, without stopping to sound them out. This means they can use their brain power to focus on the *meaning* of what they are reading.

But what makes it possible for a child to read fluently? Before your child can recognize words, they must be able to recognize letters and know which sounds they represent. Plenty of practice with letters and letter sounds now helps your child become a fluent reader later.

When your child knows some letter sounds, they can begin to sound out words. Over time, your child will build a large bank of words they can recognize *automatically*. This will allow your child to read with fluency.

Try these fun activities at home or on the go!

Repeated Reading Help your child practice the names and sounds of the letters they are learning about. Practice often!

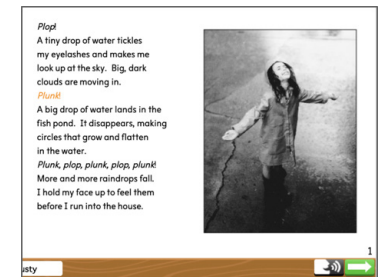
One way to do this is to help your child read their favorite books again and again! Can your child find some letters they know in the books you are reading?

Modeled Reading Read a favorite book to your child to model fluent reading. Use lots of expression. Is the story exciting? Is it sad? Your voice should match what's happening in the story.

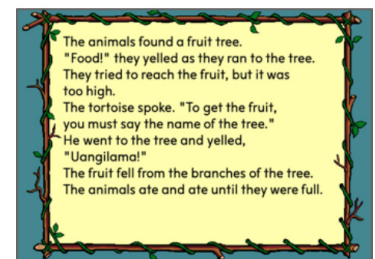
One of the most powerful ways for your child to develop their fluency skills is to hear others reading fluently. You can find lots of read-aloud videos for children's books online! (Try this Waterford book: [The Gingerbread Man](#).)



Children hear the sounds in words and connect them to the letters that make the sounds.



Waterford books give children fluency practice at all levels of reading. Many of the books are read aloud to model fluency.



Short passages from the books are used in fluency activities. This gives children practice reading the same text again and again.

View example activities and more → [here!](#)