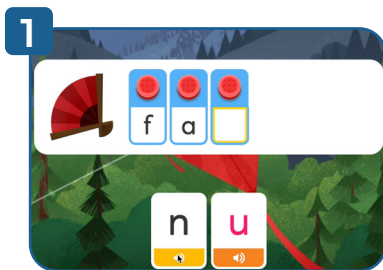
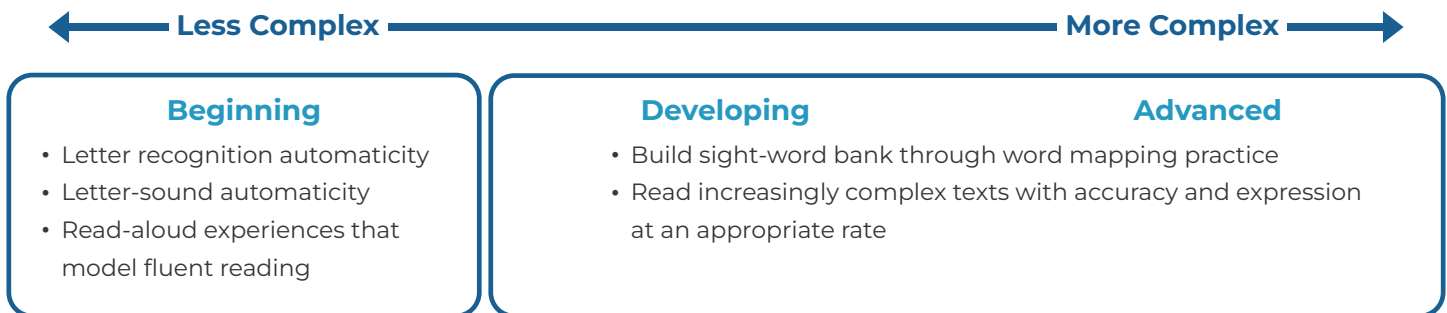


# Fluency

Building a large bank of sight words is the beginning of building reading fluency. This happens through **orthographic mapping**, which is the process that adds words to a student's long-term memory so they are recognized instantly without decoding. This mapping process involves **phonological awareness skills** and **phonics skills**.



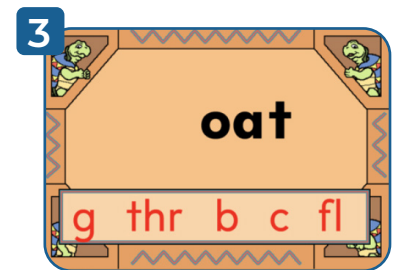
Waterford Early Learning's instructional strands for literacy are aligned with the Essential Components of Reading identified by the National Reading Panel (NICHD, 2000).



Students hear the sounds (phonemes) and then connect the phonemes to the letters (graphemes) to map CVC words.

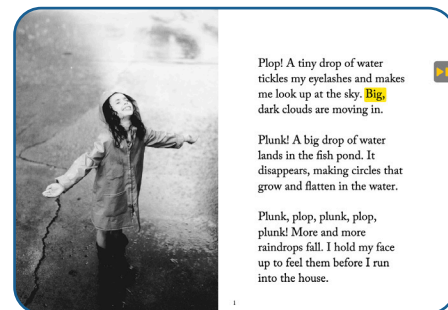
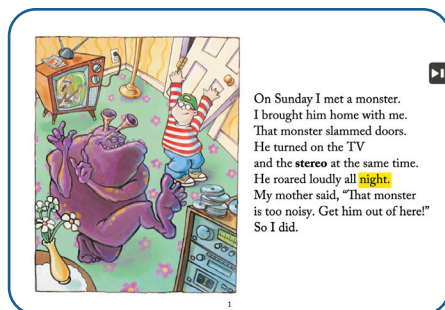
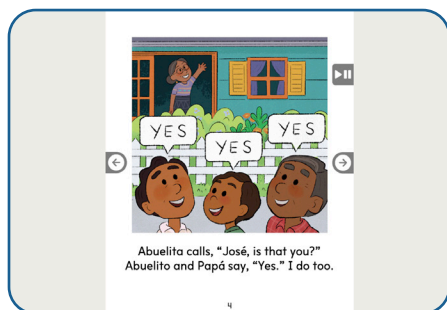


Students map words by connecting sounds/phonemes—/s/ /a/ /k/—to letters/graphemes—s-a-ck.

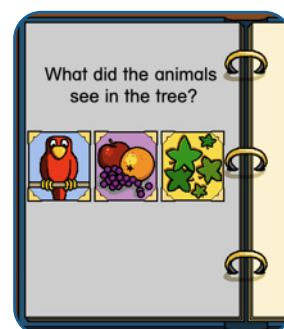
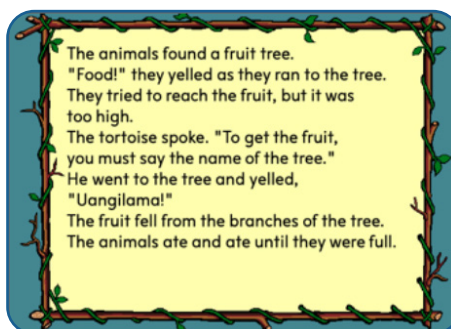
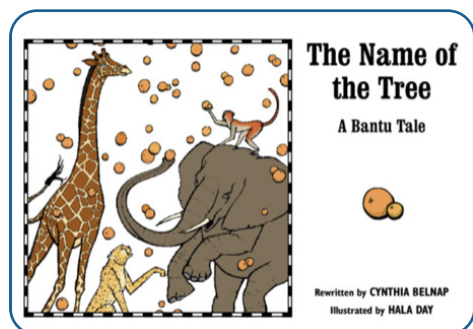


Students use the oa-t pattern to map similar words such as goat, throat, coat, and float.

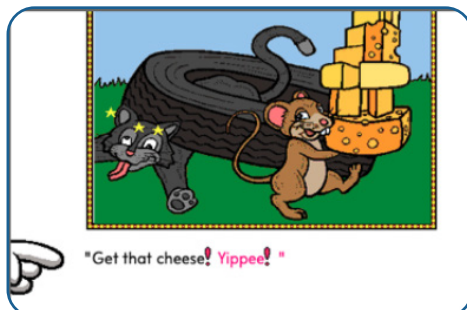
Waterford Early Learning's adaptive learning path includes hundreds of experiences with connected text. Decodable texts (Readable books) as well narrative and informational read-along books provide fluency practice at all stages of reading development. The book experiences included embedded support for decoding and comprehension. Many also include narration as a *model* for fluency.



Short passages from Readable books are featured in fluency activities. These activities provide opportunities to practice repeated reading of familiar text that is aligned with the phonics instruction students have received. And because comprehension is the ultimate goal of reading, many fluency activities in the digital learning path are followed by a check for understanding.



Reading with expression contributes to reading comprehension. To read with appropriate expression, students must think about the events of the story and attend to punctuation. Waterford Early Learning's explicit instruction for fluency draws upon text from the Readable books series and builds students' ability to read at an appropriate rate, with accuracy and expression.



[View example Fluency activities here.](#)