

Fluency → Understanding → Enjoyment!

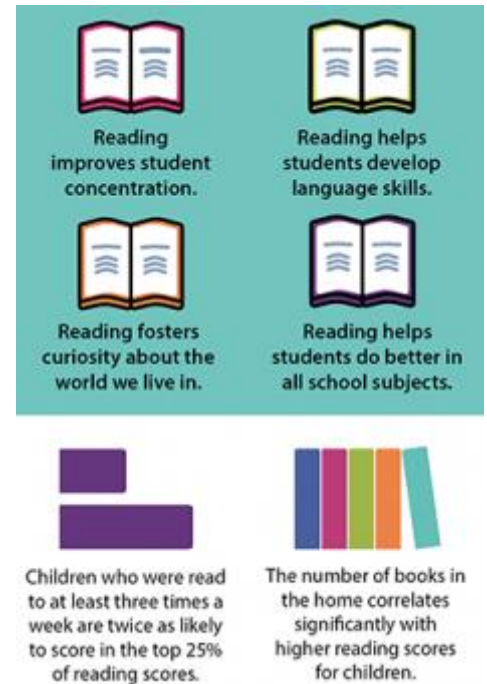
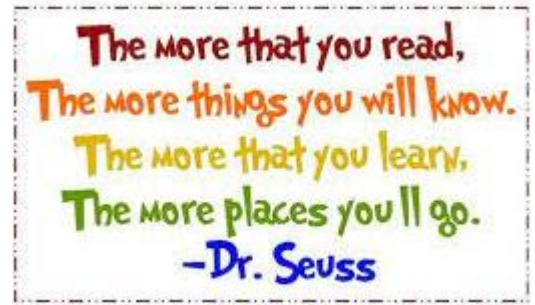
Fluency is the ability to read with speed, accuracy and expression. To be able to **understand** what they read, children must be able to **read fluently** whether they are reading aloud or silently. If children don't understand the text, they aren't going to enjoy it. Fluency is important for motivation; children who find reading laborious tend not to want to read!

When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases. They pause at full stops and commas, and their reading is smooth and has expression.

Children who do not read with fluency:

- May sound choppy and awkward. They read every word like this.
- May trip over words. To them, reading is awkward and painful.
- May read automatically and with little stumbling, but they read like this without a breath
- May start and stop a lot as they decode words

Children who don't read with expression may have difficulty with decoding skills or may just need more practice with speed and smoothness in reading.



There are lots of ways to help your child improve their fluency, including:

- **Reading aloud to your child** to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds. Show how you pause for punctuation and change your voice to make text more meaningful. Children should be read to by their teachers, by their parents, and by their relatives. **The more models of fluent reading children hear the better.**
- Asking your child to **reread** a sentence if they have had to spend time decoding words within it. They could **repeat** it until they are able to read it with fluency
- Reminding your child to pause at full stops, commas and between phrases
- Getting your child to practice reading the same phrase, poem or short piece of text several times until they are able to read it with fluency
- Echo reading – you read a sentence, pointing to the words as they are said, and then your child **repeats** this with the same sentence
- Paired reading – take it in turns to read a sentence
- Choral reading – Read a short text or poem together at the same time **until they are familiar with it**