









What can I do to help my child develop reading fluency?







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A fluent reader will have an easier time understanding what they read, and they are more likely to enjoy reading. To help a child develop fluency, provide practice with sight words and decodable texts. Sight words are words that kids should be able to recognize and say instantly. They are very common words, and they are often tricky to read and spell because they don't match regular phonics rules. Words like "the," "and," and "is" are all sight words. Decodable texts are stories that are written completely using sight words and words that young learners can sound out.

TIP: Model and practice

-  Continue to read aloud with your child. Modeling fluent reading for emergent readers is very helpful.
-  Borrow audio books from the library, and listen to books on tape while driving (or during quiet time) for even more modeling.
-  Try guided practice. Read a line, and then have your child read that same line back to you, trying to read a fluently as possible.
-  Perform your reading! Put on a play or read a poem for an audience (or your phone's camera). Encourage lots of practice beforehand.
-  Reread favorite books. Repeated readings are great for building fluency—no matter how tired you are of the story!
-  When reading, point out how punctuation changes how you say the sentences. Encourage your learner to notice punctuation marks while reading.
-  Play a game by writing one sentence with different punctuation and reading it different ways (e.g., "You took my cookie. You took my cookie! You took my cookie?")
-  Giving meaningful praise and feedback will help your reader know what to do more of. For example, "I loved how you made your voice sound frightened during that scary part of the story."

TIP: Memorize sight words

-  Unfortunately, the best way to learn sight words is through memorization. Try to make this process fun by turning it into a game.
-  Make flashcards and use them to play memory, Go Fish, or sight word bingo.
-  Put flashcards all over your house or yard and play a game of tag: have your learner tag the words you call out as fast as they can.
-  Break sight word practice into small sections— focus on 1–5 words a day to keep it manageable.
-  Treat sight words like pictures by helping your child learn the shape of the word so they will recognize it instantly.
-  As your child learns new sight words, have them write them down. Start encouraging them to use these new words to write notes, cards, or stories.