

### Steps to Fluency

Supporting your child as they learn to read is one of the best things you can do to help them be excellent learners. In order to be a really successful reader, your child needs to be able to read fluently. Below is a grid that will help you to identify the next steps for your child. You can use it to support them to read with flow and expression-try focussing on one section at a time and showing them how it sounds and giving them chance to read the same bit over and again until it is easy to read and sounds fluent.

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is all in the same voice and tone</li> <li>The voice doesn't go up and down when it should</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some words are said with expression and have different voice sounds but not many</li> <li>Reading doesn't sound natural yet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading sounds like a normal speaking voice</li> <li>Sometimes it goes back to one sound when the words get tricky</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading sounds like you are talking to a friend</li> <li>The voice goes up and down when the story has different feelings: Eg High pitch when it is an exciting part</li> </ul>
Phrasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each word is read very separately with pauses between</li> <li>Your child doesn't pause at full stops or commas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reads some groups of two or three words together with some flow</li> <li>Sometimes stops at full stops to pause</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child pauses at full stops and commas</li> <li>They read groups of words and they flow without stopping</li> <li>Their reading has rhythm but sometimes sounds a little choppy if they get stuck</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child is reading with rhythm and it flows nicely</li> <li>They sound like they understand which words belong together in groups and they read them together Eg Once upon a time or all of a sudden</li> </ul>
Smoothness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are lots of long pauses</li> <li>Some words are sounded out or repeated</li> <li>There is no rhythm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are some pauses</li> <li>There are lots of tricky bits that make your child stop and start reading</li> <li>They might correct some of their own mistakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child is reading with some rhythm with some stops but not many</li> <li>They may stop when there are some tricky words but they move on quickly</li> <li>They correct their own mistakes while they are reading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child is reading with rhythm and it's nice to hear them read</li> <li>They don't make many mistakes and can easily fix them if they do</li> </ul>
Pace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is slow</li> <li>It sounds like hard work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading is too fast or too slow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading sounds like normal speaking</li> <li>Some bits are too fast/slow but not many</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading sounds natural like normal speaking</li> </ul>