

Accurate and Fluent Reading

Good readers are able to read a text accurately and automatically with expression. Fluent readers recognize words automatically and do not have to concentrate on sounding out the words. Instead, fluent readers can focus their attention on what the text means. They read aloud effortlessly and with expression as if they are speaking, instead of reading slowly word by word. Fluency activities provide practice in reading text accurately and fluently.

Use these activities to reinforce and practice accurate and fluent reading skills with your child.

Title	Suggested Grade(s)	Target Skill(s)	Activity
Automatic Reading	1–3	Reading Accuracy	Record your own voice as you read a story with ease. Have your child read along with the recording until he or she is able to sound like you without the recording. Schedule a time for your child to read the practiced text to you. Have your child read along with audiobooks, which are available from your local library or bookstore.
Choral Reading	1–3	Reading Accuracy	Read sentences and stories as your child reads along.
Breakfast of Champion Readers	1–3	Reading Fluency	As your child eats breakfast, have him or her identify as many words on a cereal box as possible. Begin on the front of the box. Ask, for example, “Where does it say Fruity Flakes?” or “What is the name of the cereal?” Have your child read the words as he or she finds them. Then move to the back of the box and then to the left side. To keep score, have your child take one piece of cereal out of the box for each word identified correctly. Your child can try to improve his or her score each week.
Labeling Your Home	1–3	Reading Fluency	On index cards, make labels for items in your home, such as <i>sofa</i> , <i>chair</i> , <i>sink</i> . Ask your child to read the labels and place them in the correct spot.

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Fix the Labels	1–3	Reading Fluency	On index cards, make labels for items in your home. Place the labels in all the wrong places. (This activity may be more fun if your child has initially labeled the items correctly the day or week before.) When your child notices the mixed-up labels, ask him or her to place them in the correct spot.
Reading Text Messages	1–3	Reading Fluency	Enlist your family and friends to send you text messages for your child, using words your child is learning in school. Make sure the words are not abbreviated within the text message. Ask your child to read the messages aloud. Point out missed words and help him or her to reread the messages correctly.
Kid Teacher	1–3	Reading Fluency	As you read one of your child’s books, ask him or her to follow along in the book and correct you if you make a mistake. At first, read slowly, and deliberately misread one word per sentence (at most). Prompt your child to fix your mistake. Gradually increase your reading speed and the number of mistakes per sentence.
Write an Email	1–3	Reading Fluency	Using words your child is learning in school, write an email to a friend or relative. Ask your child to read the email aloud. Point out any words that he or she reads incorrectly. Have your child reread the full sentence correctly.
Take a Walk	1–3	Reading Fluency	Take a walk outside and ask your child to be your tour guide. Pretend to be a visitor to the neighborhood and have your child read aloud shop signs and posters on shop windows.
I–Spy in a Store	1–3	Reading Fluency	As you walk in a store (for example, a grocery store or market), say to your child, “I spy the word <i>cereal</i> ” (or <i>milk</i> , <i>meat</i> , and so on). Give your child a point for each word he or she identifies correctly.
I–Spy	1–3	Reading Fluency	As you and your child travel (walking, driving, or using public transportation), say, “I spy a sign that reads <i>Don’t Walk</i> ” (or <i>Stop</i> , <i>One Way</i> , <i>Library</i> , <i>No Right Turn on Red</i> , and so on). Give your child a point for each sign he or she identifies correctly.

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Reading and Listening	1–6	Reading Accuracy	Listen as your child reads words and books from school. Be patient as your child practices. Before helping him or her pronounce unfamiliar or difficult words, wait to see if your child tries to figure out how they are pronounced. Allow your child to try and sound out unfamiliar words. Tell your child how proud you are when he or she can read new words.
Go Fish	1–6	Reading Accuracy	Choose 10 words your child is learning in school. Write each word down on two separate cards, making 10 pairs of cards, 20 cards in total. To play, give each player six cards and put the remaining cards in a drawing pile. Ask your child, “Do you have the word _____?” (Read one word card in your hand.) If he or she has a matching card, you may take it. If not, you can go fish in the pile of remaining cards. Next, it’s your child’s turn. Repeat until one player matches all his or her cards.
Memory	1–6	Reading Accuracy	Choose five words your child is learning in school. Write each word down on two separate cards, making five pairs of cards, 10 cards in total. Shuffle the cards and place them in rows with the words facing down. Take turns turning over two cards at a time. Each player reads the words and collects the cards if they match. Keep playing until all the pairs are matched. The player with the most pairs wins.
Words on Flash Cards	1–6	Reading Accuracy	Have your child practice saying commonplace words quickly. Use flashcards to display words your child is learning in school. Have your child practice reading and saying the words rapidly.
Read With Accuracy	1–6	Reading Fluency	Help your child read with accuracy. As your child reads aloud, point out missed words and help him or her read words correctly. Have your child reread to be sure he or she understands the meaning.

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Butterfly	1–6	Reading Fluency	Use flash cards to display words your child is learning in school. Have your child say the word. For each incorrect guess, draw a different part of a butterfly (body, head, wings, six legs, two antennas). Your child's goal is to finish saying all the words before the butterfly is complete.
Words in a Hat	1–6	Reading Fluency	As your child reads aloud, write down any missed words on scrap paper. After he or she is done reading, place the words in a bowl or hat. Draw words out and help him or her read the words correctly. To extend the exercise, have your child find the words in the text and read them within the original sentence.
Guess the Headline	1–6	Reading Fluency	Cut out a number of headlines and from each one remove an interesting word (for example, "Missing Painting Found in _____"). Ask your child to come up with as many possible answers for each headline.
Word Race	2–6	Reading Accuracy	Choose five words your child is learning in school. Write them on a sheet of paper and read them with your child. Now, challenge your child to read the words as many times as possible in thirty seconds. Make it a fun race by saying, "Ready, set, go."
Read School Work Together	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Help your child read schoolwork. Read any instructions together with your child.
Read a Movie	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Rent or borrow a children's DVD. Mute the volume and turn on the English subtitles. Read the subtitles dramatically. Ask your child to read the subtitles aloud with you. Pause the screen as needed to read the lines fully.
Read a Map	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Obtain a local, state, U.S., or world map. Play a version of I Spy, asking your child to find the labels for various locations that contain common words. For example, say, "Find the label for an avenue" (or a state park, or an ocean, and so on). Have your child read the label aloud, and help him or her pronounce the words as needed.

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Tap Into Technology	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Appeal to your child’s ease with technology by asking for his or her help completing a variety of online tasks, from changing your email user name to installing a software upgrade. Have your child read the online instructions. As your child reads aloud, point out missed words and ask him or her to read the sentence or phrase again correctly. Make sure your child understands the meaning of the text.
Read the TV News	3–6	Reading Accuracy	On television, find a local news channel, turn off the sound, and turn on the closed-captioning. Tell your child you are going to read the anchor’s captions aloud and with expression. Ask him or her to read the captions for the weather, sports, or on-the-scene reporter, also focusing on expression. Afterwards, talk about the meaning of the captions.
Writing Chores	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Write down chores for your child to complete at home. Use words your child is learning in school and incorporate those words into your list of chores. Have your child read the notes aloud and explain what he or she should do to demonstrate understanding of the meaning.
Learn a Video Game	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Tell your child you’d like to learn his or her favorite video game. (If he or she does not play video games use a board game instead.) Ask your child to read you the introductions and/or the help section of the game. If the game has text throughout, ask your child to read you the instructions as they pop up. Read the instructions aloud again after your child finishes to model reading.
Open the Mail	3–6	Reading Accuracy	Ask your child to help you check the mail. (Take a look at the mail ahead of time to make sure it’s appropriate.) Have your child open envelopes and read the first sentence of a letter to you. Have him or her read the headlines of magazines.
Play a Board Game	3–6	Reading Fluency	Play a board game with a relatively large number of words printed on the board. On each turn, your child is in charge of reading all the words needed to play. Help your child read words that he or she doesn’t recognize.

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Read Directions	3–6	Reading Fluency	Take turns reading the directions for a board game with your child. Alternate reading by section or by numbered steps. Point out words your child misses, and ask him or her to reread the phrase or sentence with the correct wording.
Word Search	3–6	Reading Fluency	Provide your child with an age–appropriate newspaper or magazine article with words he or she is learning in school. Have your child read the article aloud. Point out any words your child reads incorrectly. Ask your child to try to reread the full sentence correctly.
Kid Gives Directions	3–6	Reading Fluency	Have your child read the directions for using laundry detergent, cooking macaroni, or using your email program’s Help guide. Do what your child reads, but point out when words are read incorrectly. Ask your child which word he or she did not read correctly. Then have your child read the word correctly.
Household I–Spy	3–6	Reading Fluency	Facing a shelf of books (or any other location in your house where a varied group of words is on display, from the labels of food in your kitchen cabinet to a set of magazines on a coffee table) say, “I Spy the word ____.” Have your child locate the word, read it, and then identify a word for you to find.
Cook Together	3–6	Reading Fluency	Choose a recipe you and your child can cook together. Have your child read each step of the recipe aloud. Point out any words he or she reads incorrectly and have your child reread the word correctly. Both of you complete the step that was read.
Define a Word	3–6	Reading Fluency	Help foster your child’s curiosity about what words mean and where they come from. Write down a few words your child uses in school and ask him or her to look them up in an online or print student dictionary. Have your child read the definition aloud, focusing on reading each word correctly.

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Kid Game Master	3–6	Reading Fluency	Give your child responsibility for reading aloud all of the rules to a new board game. Resist the urge to correct your child as he or she reads the directions, unless an error changes the meaning of the directions.
Use a Newspaper	3–6	Reading Fluency	Try to get the local newspaper at least once a week. Ask your child to read the headlines and the lead paragraph of each front–page article.
Create a Poem	3–6	Reading Fluency	Have your child place his or her words from school on index cards. Then place the words on the refrigerator or a bulletin board. Invite all members of the house to arrange the words into “found poems” in which a set group of words form a poem through their creative arrangement. Have your child read the poem aloud at dinner each night.
Online Word Games	3–6	Reading Fluency	There are many entertaining word games online. Find a grade–appropriate game and play with or against your child, or your child can play on his or her own. Check with your child’s teacher or librarian for suggestions. Have your child keep a record of his or her scores. Challenge your child to improve his or her score each time the game is played.
Word Collection	3–6	Reading Fluency	Provide a notebook in which your child can write down new vocabulary from his or her reading or from subject areas, including band, physical education, art, or sports. Write a paragraph using the new words. Have your child read the paragraph aloud, focusing on reading the new words correctly.