

Reading Fluently

Strategies already discussed: Does it make sense?
Re-read
Say the first part
Does it look right
Does it sound right
You know part of that word
You know a word like that

Over the past couple of months, I have been discussing the above reading strategies with you. I believe that it is also important to discuss with you the importance of fluency.

Fluency when reading is making the reading sound like talking. When we are talking, our words flow from one word straight on to the next without stopping in between each word. Most people believe that children need to recognise each word when reading and once they have memorized many, many words, their reading will become fluent. This may occur, however, reading will be a very boring activity as it will sound like a robot and be very monotone. **Children will find reading in the early years much easier and enjoyable if they read with fluency and phrasing. They will sound like a “real reader” more quickly and find reading much more pleasurable.**

When reading fluently (ie going straight onto the next word without stopping between words) they will find that the next word will just pop into their mouth without even really thinking about what that next word could be. **They will be using meaning as their main source of information rather than just visual recognition of each individual word and this is a far more effective way of reading.**

Please feel free to contact me regarding this or any of the other strategies I have discussed recently.

Michelle Lang
Reading Recovery Teacher