

# PiXL Reading Fluency



## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

*"Reading is like joy: you can exist without it, but why would you want to?"*

MARCUS SEDGWICK

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Reading is a complex task, for which several skills need to be mastered and undertaken. For example: phonics knowledge, word recognition, vocabulary understanding and more. Research shows that reading fluency is vital for good comprehension and understanding of a text.

## BUT WHAT IS READING FLUENCY?

Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately and automatically, as well as with expression. Without the ability to recognise words accurately and quickly, reading can be slow and hard work – taking away so much mental energy that the reader struggles to make sense of what they're reading.

Reading with expression (also known as prosody) involves making meaning through how you use intonation, pace, volume and pauses, as well as through where you place emphasis on certain words. Doing so helps the reader to understand what they're reading and enables them to present this meaning to others when they're reading aloud.



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## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

- Read aloud to them, or listen to an audio book together, so that they can regularly hear fluent reading of a variety of texts. They may also benefit from reading along with the text so that they can see the words whilst listening to them.
- If you feel your child may be resistant to you reading whole texts or fiction, you could mention you've read an article they may like and read it to them. Alternatively, you could listen to audiobooks in the car or over breakfast.
- Discuss the importance of repetition and practice with your child. If they are practising their reading fluency in school, they may be undertaking repeated readings of a text, similarly to if they were to practise a piece of music, a song or a theatrical performance. You could share examples where repeated practice of something has helped you so that they can understand the importance and benefits of the repetition.
- If your school sends home short texts for your child to practise their fluency with, encourage them to do this. Try to find time to listen to them and offer them praise. Be guided by your school as to whether the reading expression is 'mapped out' following a modelled reading in school or whether students are to experiment with their expression at home. It's useful to have a joined-up approach so that home and school support is aligned.
- Continue to encourage your child to read, whilst not making it appear as a 'chore'. Use the PiXL Parent Support Guide to get more tips on how to support them with this.

**“When we read, we can be inspired to want to build a better world and a brighter future. So keep reading and change the world.”**

CHRISTOPHER EDGE

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