



I am very proud of how hard all of my students are working. Since the beginning of the year we have been working on letter sound, sight word recognition, decoding words, and reading fluently.

In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently* whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression. The students have been working on reading fluently. Below are some ideas for your child to use and ways for you to help at home.

How to help

With the help of parents and teachers, kids can learn strategies to cope with fluency issues that affect his or her reading. Below are some tips and specific things to do.

What kids can do to help themselves

- **Track the words with your finger as a parent or teacher reads a passage aloud. Then you read it.**
- **Have a parent or teacher read aloud to you. Then, match your voice to theirs.**
- **Read your favorite books and poems over and over again. Practice getting smoother and reading with expression.**

What parents can do to help at home

- **Support and encourage your child. Realize that he or she is likely frustrated by reading.**

- **Check with your child's teachers to find out their assessment of your child's word decoding skills.**
- **If your child can decode words well, help him or her build speed and accuracy by:**
 - **Reading aloud and having your child match his voice to yours**
 - **Having your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times**
 - **Reminding your child to pause between sentences and phrases**
- **Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.**
- **Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can "hear" the sound of fluent reading as he or she reads the book aloud.**
- **Use books on tapes; have the child follow along in the print copy.**

