



Developing deeper subject knowledge: Unit 9 - How to teach fluency

Teaching activities to try

- For younger children, ask them to use puppets to retell stories. This will encourage them to use different voices when telling the story.
- In pairs, give children a poem or some song lyrics to read aloud to the class. Ask the children to divide each line up so that they can read one line each. Encourage children to emphasise certain words.
- Give children a blank text with no punctuation or grammar. Ask them to fill it in where they feel it would be appropriate and then read it aloud in pairs. This is also a good activity for consolidating grammar subject knowledge.
- Listening to stories – there are lots of examples of authors reading stories online. Ask the children to listen to the story and note where the author has used expression or emphasised certain words. Children could also do this after the class teacher has read aloud to them.

Planning your next steps

Look at the key areas of teaching fluency below. Which areas are being taught well and which areas need further improvement? What do these look like in the classroom?

1. **Expression:** *prosody, intonation, tone, monotone, stress*
2. **Automatic word recognition:** *automaticity, pace/rate, words correct per minute*
3. **Rhythm and phrasing:** *phrasing/ chunking, pausing*
4. **Smoothness:** *accuracy, self-correct*

Source: Rasinski, T. & Cheesman Smith, M. (2018)

Are you reading aloud to children?
When does this take place?

Is fluency being explicitly taught
across the school?

How can some of the activities be
incorporated into teaching?

What resources do you need to
support you?



Books to read

From Phonics to Fluency: Effective Teaching of Decoding and Reading Fluency in the Elementary School (2001, Timothy V. Rasinski and Nancy D. Padak)

The Megabook of Fluency (Timothy V Rasinski, 2018)