

# A Parent's Guide to: **Fluency**



## **What is fluency?**

- Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking.

## **Why is fluency important?**

- Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension.
- Repeated and monitored oral reading improves reading fluency and overall reading achievement. Students who read and reread passages orally as they receive guidance and/or feedback become better readers.

## **Fluency readers can:**

- Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means. They can make connections among the ideas in the text and between the text and their background knowledge. In other words, fluent readers recognize words and comprehend at the same time.

## **Less fluent readers:**

- Less fluent readers must focus their attention on figuring out the words, leaving them little attention for understanding the text. Their oral reading is choppy and reading usually happens word by word.

## **How can I help my child with fluency?**

- Have your child repeatedly read appropriate leveled passages as you offer guidance.
- Provide them opportunities to read books that are at their independent level of reading ability. Ask your child's teacher about your child's reading level.
- Read aloud daily to your child. By reading effortlessly and with expression, you are modeling for your child how a fluent reader sounds during reading. After you model how to read the text, you can encourage and support your child as they reread it. By doing this, your child is engaging in repeated reading.