

Top tips for reading fluency

Reading together

1. The adult reads out loud first. In a short book (e.g. red/yellow/light blue reading scheme book), you will probably read the whole book. In a longer book choose a page or even just a paragraph.
2. Your child then reads the same part with you.
3. Then your child reads alone.
4. If your child makes any mistakes reading by themselves, read to them again – it saves falling out!
5. Finally, your child might do a performance read. Their best effort – lots of praise for this one!

Steps 1-5 could be all on one night or (more likely) spread over a couple of nights. Another night you could simply chat about the book or part of the book. Finally, you could say goodbye to the book by reading a favourite part together.

Checking for understanding

Ask them about the 5 things they have found out?

Can they sum up the story in 5 sentences?

Can they draw a picture about the book?

Who are the main characters?

Play around with voices in a story – grumpy, quiet, angry etc.

Look at the punctuation together. Is your child letting their voice go up for a question? Are they pausing after a full stop?

Do they know that capital letters are good clues for names and places?

It really helps to give lots of praise for improvements each time they reread. You will probably need to keep the book 3 or 4 nights to do this. Remember ten minutes a night is much, much better than an hour once a week