Fluency

Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. Fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, therefore, they can focus their attention on what the text means. 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.

(*Put Reading First pg. 26*)

Primary activities to strengthen reading fluency:

• Model fluent reading by reading aloud to your child.

• Provide numerous opportunities for your child to read.

• Re-read texts that are easy for him/her

• When reading books with a lot of dialog, perform as a play

As you read together, have your child do the following in order:

1. Point to each word as he/she reads the text aloud.

2. Re-read the text without using his/her finger.

3. Re-read the text again but make it sound as if he/she is speaking.

4. Point to the important punctuation marks that show him/her when to slow down.

5. Show you what his/her voice should do when he/she sees a comma, period, a questions mark, or an explanation point.

6. Listen to your voice as you read a sentence. Ask, "Do you like the way that sounded? Was I reading fluently?" Now, you try to read it the way I did.

Intermediate activities to strengthen reading fluency

- Model fluent reading by reading aloud to your child.

- Provide numerous opportunities for your child to read.

- Read Poetry with and to your child. Recommended poets: Jack Prelutksy, Shel Silverstein, Bill Martin Jr.

- Take turns reading pages or chapters of a book he/she is reading. This gives you an on-going opportunity to hear how well your child is reading.

Ways Parents Can Improve Reading Fluency with Paired Reading

Rasinski (1995) describes how paired reading is used at home. Each night the parent reads a brief poem or passage to their child. This is followed by the parent and child reading the passage together several times. Then the child reads the text to the parent.