

Literacy First:

Happy New Year!

The National Reading Panel states, "Fluent readers are characterized by the ability to read orally with speed, accuracy and proper expression."

When teachers listen to their students read daily, they are focusing on 4 major components of fluency: Pace, Phrasing, Expression/Volume, and Smoothness. Teachers model and explicitly teach these guidelines so your child knows what is expected of them.

Pace is keeping a consistently conversational and appropriate rate at which they read. Teachers work with students on not reading slowly and laboriously or inappropriately fast.

Phrasing is being aware of sentence units and applying appropriate stress and intonation (pausing at commas and other end marks). Readers are encouraged to not read monotonic and word-for-word. We chunk sections of sentences together to help add meaning to our reading.

Expression/Volume is reading with enthusiasm while sounding natural. Teachers work with students to discourage robot reading with little expression. We want kids to sound like they do while holding a conversation.

Smoothness is reading with minimal breaks. It is moving past sounding out words and frequently pausing or hesitation to read.

Have your child practice reading with appropriate fluency on some of their favorite books, poems or comics.

Model reading with great expression and enthusiasm when you read aloud. Also, don't slow down when you are reading something together. Keeping a normal reading rate help increase the pace at which your child reads.

If you have any questions about Literacy First, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, myself or check out the official website: www.literacyfirst.com

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