

Fluency Methods & Routines

Read Like Us, echo reading, choral reading, Teddy Talks, and more

Audience: Educators (K-8)

Based on professional development by Dr. Chase Young | LiTerrific.com

Why Fluency Instruction Matters

Fluent readers read accurately, effortlessly, and with appropriate expression. When decoding becomes automatic, cognitive resources are freed for comprehension (Automaticity Theory). Fluency instruction benefits all readers, not just beginning ones.

"Repeated reading is not a method for teaching all beginning reading skills." (Samuels, 1979) It is, however, one of the most effective approaches to building fluency specifically.

Key Fluency Methods

Method	How It Works
Echo Reading	Teacher reads a sentence; students repeat with the same expression.
Choral Reading	Everyone reads together in unison.
Paired Reading	Two students read together simultaneously.
Neurological Impress	Teacher and student read aloud together. Teacher reads slightly ahead, modeling expression.
Read Two Impress	Read a challenging text aloud together, then the student rereads independently. Continue for 20 minutes.
Repeated Reading	Student reads the same passage multiple times to build automaticity.

The Read Like Us Protocol

A structured fluency routine with five supported reads of the same text:

Read #	Method	Purpose
1	Teacher reads aloud	Model fluent reading
2	Echo Read	Guided practice with support
3	Choral Reading	Group practice builds confidence
4	Paired Choral Reading	Partner support, increasing independence
5	Performance	Authentic purpose for fluent reading

NAEP Oral Reading Fluency Scale

Use this four-level rubric to assess and discuss fluency with students:

Level	Description
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Level 1	Word-by-word reading. No meaningful phrasing or expression.
Level 2	Two-word phrases with some inappropriate groupings. Limited expression.
Level 3	Mostly appropriate phrasing; some expression. Mix of smooth and choppy.
Level 4	Primarily reads in meaningful phrases with expression that matches the meaning of the text.

Teddy Talks

Students research fun, weird, or interesting facts and present short talks to practice fluency with self-selected, engaging content.

Examples: Strange state laws, local trivia, wild animal facts, bizarre history.

- What info would your students love to share?
- How will they access and compile it?
- When and where will they share it?

Authentic Reasons for Repeated Reading

The key to fluency practice is purpose. Students need a reason to re-read beyond being told to:

- Reader's Theatre performances
- Poetry slams
- Teddy Talks / presentations
- Podcasts or video recordings
- Reading aloud to younger students
- Choral performances