

Here are 10 quick and easy activities parents can do to help their children build their reading fluency at home.



1. Reading and re-reading easy books is a great way to build your child's reading fluency. Have your child select a favorite book and read it aloud two or three times. This approach, called repeated readings, is one of the best ways to promote reading fluency.

2. Model fluent reading for your child by reading aloud daily. Be sure to use expression in your reading. You can even use funny voices for dialogue as you read aloud.

3. Echo reading helps to build reading fluency. You read a phrase, sentence, or paragraph aloud to model fluent reading. Your child then reads the same phrase, sentence, or paragraph afterwards, like an echo. Continue this pattern until you have read a book, story, or page of text with your child.

4. Have your child practice reading a simple book to share with a younger sibling or another young child. Once your child is able to read the book fluently, ask him or her to share it with the other child. Both children will benefit from the reading experience.

5. Poetry and nursery rhymes can be used to practice fluency. Take turns with your child reading a short poem or nursery rhyme until he or she can read it fluently.

6. Use paired reading to build reading fluency with your child. First, you will read a poem or short passage to your child. Then, you and the child will read the poem or passage together several times. Finally, have your child read the poem or passage to you.

7. Review basic sight words with your child to make sure that he or she knows these words automatically. Knowing these common words on sight will help to improve your child's reading accuracy and rate.

8. Choose a comic strip from the newspaper. Read the comic strip aloud, using expression. Then ask your child to read the comic strip aloud. This is a fun activity to do at the breakfast or dinner table with the daily newspaper.

9. Have your child practice reading a text aloud while riding in the car or on the bus. Your child will stay busy and entertained, and this extra practice can make a big difference in your child's reading fluency.

10. Set aside reading practice time every day. Even 5 minutes of reading fluency practice using any of the activities listed above will help to develop your child's reading fluency.