

Flawless Ways to Fluent Reading

Do You Read Me? Modeling

The teacher and fluent readers are both good models. Commercial or teacher-made story tapes also serve this purpose.

How's That Again? Echo Reading

This technique has the student imitating the teacher's oral rendition, one sentence or phrase at a time. A session might begin with a taping of the student reading a passage, followed by echo reading, and culminating in a second taping of the student reading the same passage. The student compares the results and notes the improvement.

All Together Now: Choral Reading

Less fluent readers are grouped with fluent readers as they read a selected passage in unison. The teacher either reads with the group or serves as a conductor.

Follow the Reader: Neurological Impress

The teacher reads slightly ahead of, and louder than, the student. As the student gains fluency, the teacher's voice becomes softer and "shadows" (comes just behind) the student's. This is a highly effective technique, especially good with students acquiring English. It is labor intensive but could also be handled by aides or volunteers you have trained.

Bit by Bit: Text Chunking

Students read aloud a passage that has been marked with slash marks to show phrase boundaries. Passages from poetry, speeches, or songs usually work best, although narrative with frequent punctuation marks can also be used.

Twice Upon a Time: Repetition

The use of repeated readings-contextualized reading practice-is one of the most effective ways of improving fluency. The material should be "easy reads" for students, to provide problem-free reading experiences. These passages or selections should also be high-interest so that students will not become bored with the repetition.

Take a Bow: Readers Theater

This technique gives groups of students an opportunity to practice and demonstrate fluency. Each student is assigned a particular role (one or more character's words or thoughts, the "narrator" who reads the narrative) to dramatize a story that is then presented to classmates.