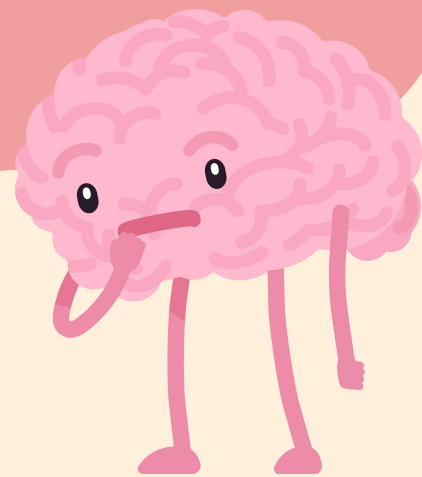


My child can confidently
decode and read words.

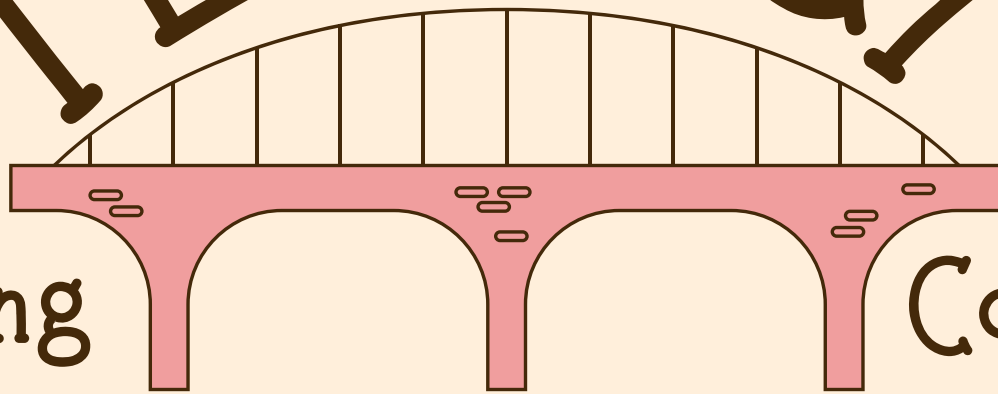


WHAT NEXT?

Fluency is the bridge between decoding and comprehension.

FLUENCY

Word Reading



Comprehension

Not having to concentrate all our energy and effort on decoding frees up cognitive space to really understand what we are reading.

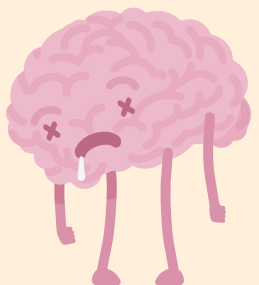


What is Fluency?

- ✓ The ability to decode words accurately at a glance and with little effort
- ✓ Reading aloud, or in our heads, at an appropriate pace for the text
- ✓ Adding expression and intonation whilst considering punctuation

Fluency is not...

- ✗ about being a fast reader! Faster reading does not lead to better reading!



How can we encourage children to read with fluency?

Ensure the books children are reading are completely matched to their phonic ability. This means that they will not come across a word that they can't decode and the flow of their reading disrupted. Matched books also mean children need to put less effort into decoding as they are secure at recognising the graphemes within the words.



Parents may view these decodable books sent home as too easy as their child can quickly read the words but this exactly what we want! Children can work on reading with more automaticity and ultimately gain a greater understanding of the text.

How do I encourage children to move away from overt blending so that reading becomes more fluent?

Whisper blending

Encourage children to whisper the phonemes in the words before saying the whole word aloud

Magic lips

Rather than say the phoneme children can move their mouths like they are saying it but the individual phonemes are not vocalised

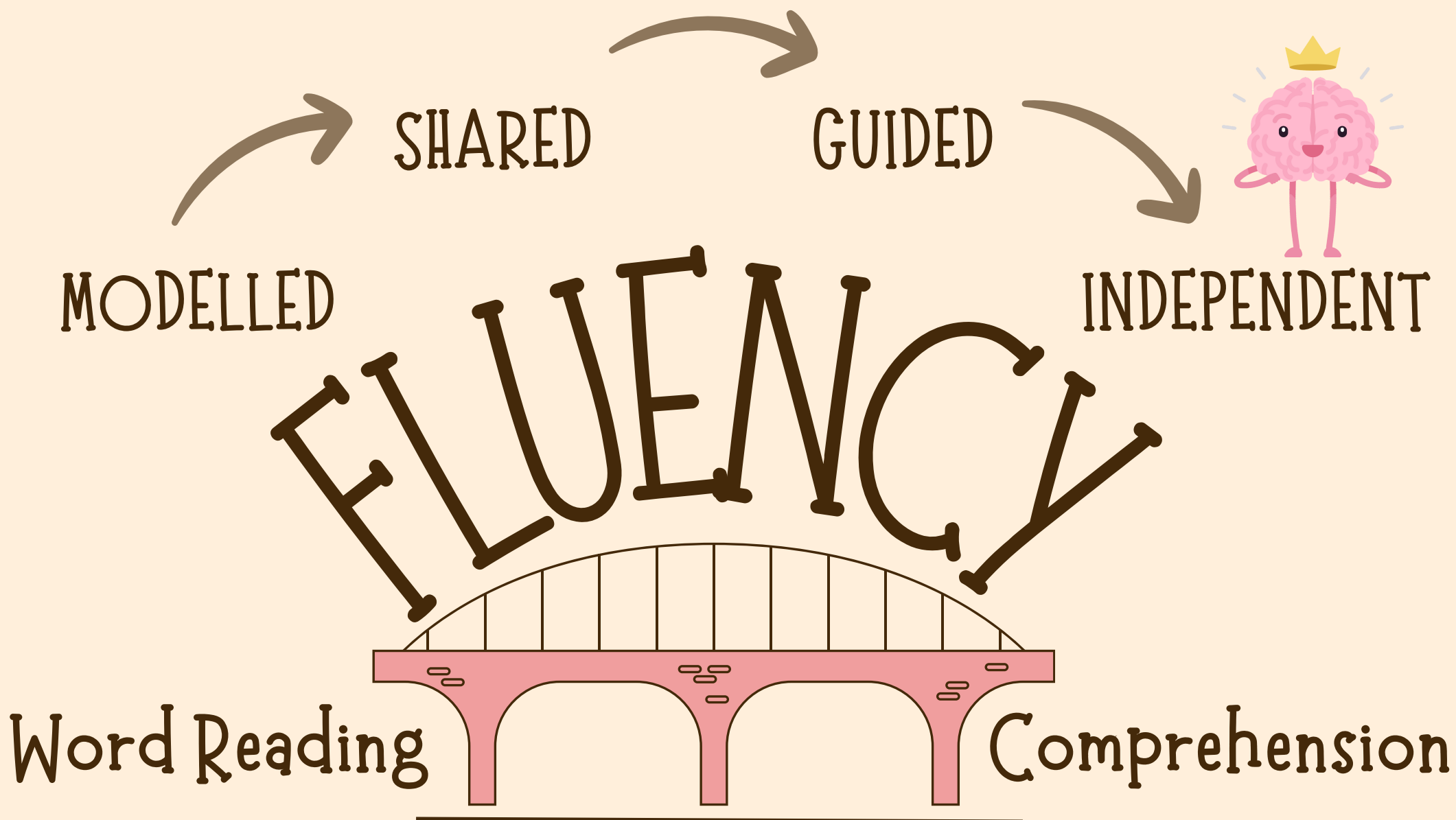
Blend in your head

Children say the phoneme in their heads before saying the word aloud. You could encourage them to nod or tap their head with their finger for each phoneme in the word



Strategies to help cross the bridge!

The Gradual Release of Responsibility Model suggests that cognitive work should slowly shift from teacher modelling, to joint responsibility to independent practice.



Techniques to Develop Fluency

Model reading with fluency



It's really important to demonstrate to children what reading with fluency sounds like. Model reading a variety of different texts aloud so that children can hear how you vary pace, add expression and intonation.



Model reading with disfluency

Just as you would model reading with fluency try sometimes reading with disfluency. You could read like a robot and stop to overtly decode words, read too fast or too slowly, not pause at the full stops or read a passage with a monotone voice. Can children spot the problems and help to fix them?

Techniques to Develop Fluency

Repeated Reading

Ensure that children have the chance to read the same book a number of times. This will build confidence, automaticity and familiarity.

Reading poetry

Reading poetry is a great way to build fluency as lots of poems have predictable rhyme and repeated refrains. Poems are great to read aloud and perform too.

Reading aloud across the Curriculum

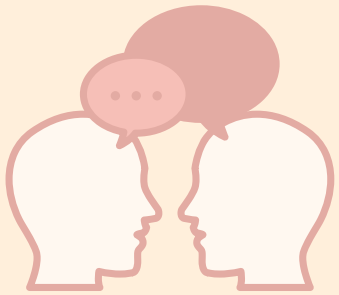
Reading aloud and modelling fluency shouldn't be restricted to Literacy lessons! Take the chance to read aloud in Science, History, Maths and other subject areas.

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Techniques to Develop Fluency

Choral Reading

Children read aloud in unison as part of a whole class or group. A useful strategy to build self-confidence and demonstrate and practice reading at an appropriate pace



Echo Reading

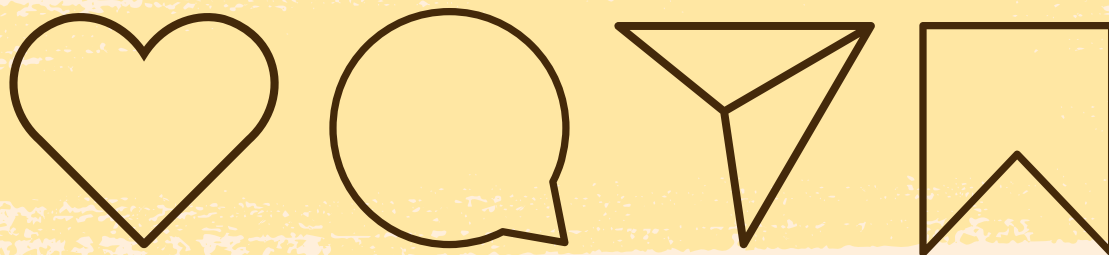
An adult models reading a short passage of the text and then children repeat. A great way to model adding expression and taking account of punctuation.

Paired Reading

Children are paired with a reading helper, often another child that is reading at a slightly higher level. This provides a chance to build fluency with a peer.



"It is essential that we recognise and appreciate the importance of fluency in the journey to become effective and enthusiastic readers."



@Phonics Family