

# Reading Fluency



**Be a role model.** When you read to your child, have him read along with you. Don't be surprised if he tries to match his voice to yours. You can also alternate paragraphs or pages, or take turns reading for different characters.

**Choose the right book.** Your youngster should recognize most of the words (one to two unfamiliar words per page are okay—that will keep him challenged). If he's having trouble reading smoothly, try picking an easier book.

**Use expression.** Punctuation marks are clues that tell us how to read something. Encourage your child to sound excited when he sees an exclamation point, and make his voice go up for a question mark. Teach him to pause briefly at a comma and slightly longer at a period.

**Check for understanding.** If your youngster doesn't understand the book, he will sound choppy. And if he's reading one word at a time, he'll have a rough time following the plot. As he reads, ask him questions to make sure he understands the story.

When Eric reads, he instantly recognizes most words. He reads sentences smoothly, understands what's happening in the story, and has good expression.

Eric is a *fluent* reader—his reading sounds like speech. Here are some ways to help your youngster read fluently.

