**What is fluency?**

* Recognizes words automatically (don’t have to sound out words)
* Read aloud effortlessly and with expression (not monotone)
* Do not have to concentrate on decoding (sounding out words)

**Why is it important?**

* Fluency doesn’t ensure comprehension but comprehension is difficult without fluency. If your child consistently stops to decode words or cannot read the sight words, their energy is being focused on that rather than absorbing the material for comprehension.
* “Learning to Read” to now “Read to Learn”.

**What makes up fluency?**

* Accuracy: Automaticity of words. Ability to read the text.
* Rate: Speed a person reads
* Prosody: Stress, intonation, and pausing. This is how the student chunks words/phrases together, how they identify punctuation marks, how they read with expression, and how to read with feelings.

**How can I help my child at home?**

* Model fluent reading with Read Alouds/Buddy Reading: Read books to your child. Or take turns reading a page with your child so that they can see you as a reader and how you read with expression. Go through the whole book this way and then switch sides of the book so that you both have read the entire book).
* Model fluent reading with Echo reading: Your child loves this. You read one sentence out loud at a time and they copy the sentence word for word, exactly how you say it.
* Model fluent reading with Repetitive Reading: Reading the same book gives exposure to text and build confidence as it seems to get effortless for your child.

**How do I assess fluency in the classroom?**

* Your child is given a passage they have never seen before to read. I time their reading to see how many words they can read correctly in 1 minute. I then graph their WPM (words per minute) each week. I make notes based on their prosody. Your child should be gaining 2-3 words a week.