



Supporting Children with Reading

Echo Reading and the 6 Ps

Building fluency – Echo Reading and The 6 Ps

Echo reading is a strategy designed to help children develop expressive, fluent reading. In echo reading, the adult or confident reader reads a short segment of text, sometimes a sentence or short paragraph, and the student will echo it back.

“Students must hear fluent readers begin modelling if they are to understand how they should sound when they read fluently” (Miller and Veatch, 2011). Since echo reading uses modelling as a form of assisted reading, students are able to gain the support and guidance they need to develop fluent reading skills.

What does echo reading look like?

- Adult/confident reader models fluent reading of a short segment, usually one sentence.
- Student repeats or ‘echo reads’ the segment they have just read.
- Adult/confident reader reads next sentence and has student echo... repeat until done.
- The adult/confident reader must track the reading with their finger so that the student can follow.

What does fluent reading look like?

- To help learners focus on their reading fluency, various aspects of reading aloud have been separated into six key elements. Each aspect works in partnership with the others to produce a rich and vibrant reading performance:

Pitch: The musicality of the reading voice – including tone and intonation.

Power: The strength given to the reading voice – including volume and stress.

Pace: The speed and rhythm at which we read.

Punctuation: The adherence to and understanding of the marks an author has placed upon the page.

Pause: The knowing of when not to read and for how long.

Passion: The emotion of the reading – including empathy and sympathy and the development of a reader’s love for the written word.



Repeated Reading

Remind your child of the criteria for fluency (quickly, accurately, with expression). Have them pick a topic they enjoy. Then find them or have them find a short passage on that topic.

Read the passage to them to show them what it sounds like to read the passage fluently. Then have them re-read the passage several times, out loud and in their mind on their own, until they feel they have developed fluency in reading that passage.

You can have your child practice in front of you a few times first just to get them started and talk about strengths and areas that need improvement. Have your child/student read the passage for you again, once they believe they have mastered fluency.

If they still have difficulty, talk to them again about their strengths and areas of need. Have them continue to practice on their own and read it for you again once they feel they have mastered the errors.

Repeat the cycle until you feel your child/student has mastered fluency of the passage to the best of their ability. After mastering one passage, have them choose more topics of interest and apply the same strategy to those passages.