

Supporting Language & Literacy at 7 Years

Supporting Fluency at Home

Being able to read text accurately, at an appropriate pace and with expression is called *fluency*. As with any skill, increasing fluency takes time and practice. Use concepts from the READ (R - Repeat the book or story (A LOT), E - Engage and Enjoy, A - Ask Questions, D - Do More) strategy to support their fluency at home. Refer to Supporting Language & Literacy at 3 years for more detailed information.

- Have your child read books aloud multiple times to build their confidence. Encourage them to slow down so that they're not only seeing the words, but they're also hearing them, too. With each read, they will read more quickly and more smoothly.
- Make sure your child gets practice reading books that aren't too hard (or too easy). They should recognize around 90% of the words without any help.
- Encourage them to add inflection and emphasis as they read to build fluency and make the reading experience more enjoyable for all.
- Have your child tell you descriptive stories.
- Invite your child to add more details when talking about something they have read, heard, or viewed.
- Encourage your child to speak loudly and clearly so others will understand.

If your child is struggling with reading fluency, they may need help practicing phonics skills. Ask your child's teacher for guidance on what else you can do at home.

Language & literacy skills at 7 years:

- knows and applies the relationship between sounds and letters in decoding grade-level words
- describes the overall structure of a story including describing how the beginning introduces the story, the middle provides major events and challenges, and the ending concludes the action
- reads with necessary accuracy, appropriate speed, and expression to support comprehension
- creates (with help) audio recordings of stories or poems and add drawings or other visual displays to stories to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings
- responds to texts (read alone and read-to)
- asks and answers questions about what a speaker says in order to gather additional information
- tells stories or experiences with details while speaking clearly and understandably
- successfully participates in conversations with friends and adults (listens, speaks about the topic, asks questions about the topic)
- speaks in complete sentences

There are lots of great books to explore at this age. Your child's teacher will likely have some wonderful suggestions. Here's a short list of some of our favorites:

- *The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body* by Joanna Cole
- *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey
- *Dog Man: A Graphic Novel* by Dav Pilkey
- *Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus* by Barbara Park
- *Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure!* by Jeff Brown
- *My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish* by Mo O'Hara