

Learning together

Adjusting Your Reading Speed

ACTIVITY #11

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES –
1ST CYCLE – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The objective of this activity is to learn how to adjust one's reading speed in order to check comprehension.



Relevance of the activity

When learning to read, it is important to use an appropriate reading speed. Reading too slowly can interfere with comprehension, just as reading too quickly and guessing words without checking them can also interfere with understanding.



Supplies

- Text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix)

To carry out this activity, you can also use:

- texts from school that your child has to read;
- a book at your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we will pay particular attention to our reading speed.

Why?



When you are learning to read, you need to recognize words and understand what you are reading at the same time. If you read too slowly by sounding out each letter, you may lose the meaning of the text. If you read too quickly by guessing the words, you may also make mistakes. It is therefore important to take your time to read the words carefully and understand the text.

When?



This strategy is useful while you are reading, as it allows you to check your comprehension and make sure you understand the information as you go.

How?



Let's go back to the text *Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!* (see Appendix). I will read two paragraphs to help you understand what I mean by reading in a way that can interfere with comprehension and what you can do to adjust.

I will start from the beginning:
Read the first paragraph in a choppy way.

I read all the words correctly. However, I was so focused on decoding the words that I did not know what the text was about.

This can happen when you are learning to read. I will now reread the first paragraph.
Reread the paragraph a little faster, but with some hesitation.



Since I have already read all the words once, I should be able to read a little more quickly. Now, I can ask myself the following questions:

- **What did I understand?**
- **What is important?**
- **If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I say?**

If it is still difficult, I reread this part. This will help my memory store the words more effectively.

Let's try again:
Read the second paragraph quickly while changing some words.

Hmm, that sounds strange! It does not seem to make sense. Either the author made a mistake, or I did not read what was written ... I think I should reread it, but a little more slowly. I will reread this paragraph with this goal in mind: to read what is written, not what I think is written.

Reread the second paragraph a little more slowly, taking the time to read the words carefully.

Now, I can ask myself the following questions:

- What did I understand?
- What is important?
- If I had to explain what I just read to a friend, what would I say?

You can now practise this strategy with a book that matches your child's reading level.



Don't forget!

Helpful tips to adjust your reading speed:

Pause after a few sentences to ask yourself if you understood.

Read aloud to help you hear the words more clearly.



Flamie, the Pink Flamingo!

Do you know Flamie? She is a beautiful pink bird, who lives in marshes and lakes. Flamie is very elegant with her pretty feathers and long, thin legs.

Flamie likes to be with other pink flamingos. Sometimes, they band together in big groups to eat and rest.

Do you know why Flamie is pink? It's because of the food that she eats. She eats small shellfish that look like tiny shrimp.

Flamie moves around easily in the water thanks to her webbed feet. They stop her from sinking into the silt and help her to balance.

When you see a pink flamingo like Flamie, take a moment to admire their beauty. Pink flamingos are extraordinary animals!



Source: Chat GPT