

# P A R E N T

TIPS TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE A BETTER READER



February 21, 2013

Dear Parents,

I am excited to present to you our first edition of the Marlboro Parent Corner, a biweekly newsletter designed to provide you with tips to help your child. Today's topic is Fluency.

In order to be a good reader, your child must be able to do two things at the same time:

- decode the words on the page, and
- understand what the words mean.

Early reading instruction focuses on teaching a child how to read single words. But being good at reading single words is not the only skill your child needs. Your child also needs to learn to read easily, and become a fluent reader. Fluent readers read quickly and accurately. They can read with expression. They tend to separate sentences into groups of words based on the meaning. They also tend to read many individual words automatically. They can understand what they are reading. This is the ultimate goal for reading. Fluent readers can begin to enjoy the meaning of what they read.

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Farrell*

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## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

### **Re-reading familiar materials will help improve fluency.**

Fluency seems to improve based on the amount of time spent reading. It does not matter whether this time is spent reading new things or re-reading favorite selections. Encourage your child to re-read his or her favorite book one more time. It may not be interesting to you, but it is helping your child become fluent.

### **Read aloud not only to your child, but WITH your child.**

Research has shown that you, as the parent, can serve as a good model of a fluent reader for your child. Read out loud TOGETHER with your child. This is sometimes called choral, paired or assisted reading. Let your child pick something interesting to read. At first, you will take the lead and your child will follow you. Point to the words as you pronounce them. Read clearly and with expression. Go at a pace that is comfortable to your child. Let him or her follow along with your voice and point to the words that you are both saying. If your child wants to read a bit alone, let him. Step in when he struggles over a word. Pronounce the word correctly and begin reading aloud together at the start of that sentence.

### **Model the rhythm and expression of our language.**

You, or the voice of the speakers on a book-on-tape, are a role model for reading with expression. By listening to expressive reading at a good pace, your child is learning how to group words into meaningful phrases. Good skill at rhythm and expression help readers understand and enjoy what they are reading.

**WE ALSO HAVE READING GAMES AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE FOR CHECKOUT – STOP IN AND SIGN OUT A GAME TO PLAY AT HOME!**