

Automaticity & Fluency Strand Overview



What are automaticity & fluency?

Fluency refers to the ability to read accurately, efficiently, and with expression, and it's necessary for readers to gain meaning of text. Automaticity is an inherent component of fluency. It involves the ability to identify letters, letter patterns, and isolated words accurately and quickly. Fluency integrates automatic word reading with the application of prosody: reading texts with expression and appropriate phrasing.

What are the roles of automaticity & fluency in learning how to read?

Automatic and fluent reading enhances reading comprehension. Once readers have deeply processed the structure and meaning of a word, they can more automatically access the word when reading, making the word a sight word. As students build decoding skills and develop an awareness of the syntactic structure of sentences, they increase the speed at which they can process text until this processing no longer competes with comprehension, but rather facilitates it. The more automatically text is processed, the easier it is to access meaning directly and integrate new information with prior knowledge.

What are the approaches to developing automaticity & fluency in Lexia® Core5® Reading?

In Lexia Core5 Reading, automaticity and fluency are targeted through systematic activities that enhance rate, accuracy, and prosody.

Automaticity: Early instruction targets automatic word recognition and automaticity with sub-skills that contribute to fluent reading. One way this is promoted is through warm-up activities and review units that are designed to consolidate previously learned skills and bring them to a level of automaticity. Students engage with a brief warm-up activity at the beginning of each session. The pace of these warm-ups is based on individual performance and allows the students to increase their rate of response relative to their level of automaticity. The content of the warm-ups follows the same sequence as the activities within previous levels. Spiralled review and cumulative practice is also embedded into word-recognition activities, beginning with phonological awareness and sound-symbol correspondences before moving to recognition of both regular and irregular words. A targeted focus on building automaticity with high-frequency words is also emphasized in the Fluency strand. In activities focused on high-frequency words, instruction draws students' attention to letter-sound correspondences as well as the regular and irregular patterns in many of these words.

Fluency: Efficient readers integrate automatic decoding with knowledge of sentence structure and meaning. In Core5, fluency instruction is built systematically by work that focuses on important aspects of sentence structure, as well as activities that involve the analysis of intonation, emphasis, phrasing, rhythm, and rhyme scheme. These activities address critical elements of fluency related to prosody. Fluency activities also include wide reading of informational and narrative texts with opportunities for shared and repeated reading. Specifically, in the passage fluency activities, students engage in shared reading with synchronized highlighting of the text. Then, they fill in missing words in passages. This format promotes monitoring for meaning while reading. Accuracy and words-per-minute are measured and reported. Lexia Skill Builders® and Lexia Lessons® also serve as key fluency resources as they support the development of additional skills that are important for reading fluency, including oral reading with a focus on expression and appropriate prosody.