

Stages of Reading Development - Continuum

Definitions:

Emergent Readers

- starting to recognize words and letters
- beginning stages of letter-sound relationships (phonemic awareness)
- reads pictures and makes predictions about the text
- recognizes some sight words

Early Readers

- Independently demonstrates directionality and one to one matching of words
- Uses beginning and ending consonant letters/sounds to confirm words
- Beginning to independently decode new words
- Pays close attention to the visual cues (pictures) and language patterns(rhyming) and predictable sentence structure to construct meaning

Transitional Readers

- Independently orchestrates decoding strategies - consistently monitors, self-corrects, and cross-checks reading
- automaticity of previously decoded words (non-high frequency words)
- reads silently and orally for longer periods of time
- Reading fluency rate increases sharply

Fluent Readers

- Decoding is automatic and is done with expression and proper pauses
- Without conscious attention, students perform multiple reading tasks-such as word recognition and comprehension-at the same time
- Significant attention is devoted to understanding texts, and the good command and use of various comprehension strategies
- Use diverse strategies to cope with challenges in more difficult text

Evolving Readers

- Confident independent readers
- Reads longer texts - novels
- Using reading strategies independently
- Transforming from a basic decoder to a comprehender of text

Mature Readers

- Reads longer texts in a variety of genres
- Evaluates and critiques text
- Fluent, avid readers
- knows when and how to use effective comprehension strategies based on text structure

***Research states that the mature reader stage is developmentally appropriate for students in 4th grade and beyond.**