



BUILDING FLUENCY, GRADES K-2

Course Description

Building Fluency, Grades K–2 is an interactive, online, and in-person professional development course designed for all teachers of grades K–2. The seven sessions in the course focus on building fluency skills in the primary grades to develop comprehension. Beginning in kindergarten, teachers can assess children's automaticity with basic reading skills at the letter, sound, word, and text levels. Based on these assessments teachers can implement appropriate direct instruction strategies and practice activities to build their students' fluency.

- Sessions 1 and 2 discuss fluency at the primary grades and explain its link to foundational reading skills: alphabet recognition, phonemic awareness, decoding, sight word recognition, and phonics.
- Session 3 recommends ways to assess automaticity with letters, sounds and words at kindergarten and grade 1. This session also models how to conduct and score a fluency assessment from mid-grade 1 to grade 2 to help teachers and students set individual fluency goals and monitor progress.
- Session 4, 5, and 6 provide research-based techniques for building fluency with letter-sound correspondences, words, and grade-level text. Session 4 focuses on direct instruction strategies to make letter-sound correspondence and spelling patterns automatic as part of effective phonics instruction. Session 5 provides techniques for students to increase their word recognition and build vocabulary. Session 6 provides lessons to help teachers model fluent reading and small group activities such as assisted oral recitations, choral and echo readings, and Readers Theater.
- Session 7 recommends ways to incorporate fluency instruction and activities into the daily classroom schedule. Topics include setting up a fluency corner where students can find books at their individual reading levels and matching students with a variety of texts for independent fluency building.

Lesson plans and classroom resources support all online sessions. The plans and resources ensure that the course content can be seamlessly integrated into classroom reading programs or subject-specific curriculum.

Course Objectives

On completing this course, you will be able to:

1. **explain** the importance of developing automaticity and fluency with foundational reading skills in the primary grades.
2. **assess** basic skills for fluency such as letter naming, sound naming, and sight word recognition, as well as conduct and interpret an oral reading fluency assessment.
3. **provide** research-based techniques for building students' automaticity with letter-sound correspondences and spelling patterns as part of effective phonics instruction.
4. **support** students in increasing their word recognition and building vocabulary using speed drills, word attack strategies, high-frequency words, and word webs.
5. **model** fluent reading, provide direct instruction, and support students' oral reading with echo reading, choral reading, partner reading, and Readers Theater.
6. **incorporate** fluency instruction into your classroom schedules and routines, set-up a fluency corner, and match students with a variety of texts for building fluency while reading independently.

Course Outline

1. Course Introduction

- 1.1 Your Course Keynote
Self-Assessment

2. Fluency in the Primary Grades: A Definition

- 2.1 What Is Fluency?
- 2.2 Why We Need to Teach Fluency
- 2.3 Letter-Sound Correspondences
- 2.4 Word Recognition and Automaticity
- 2.5 The Goal: Reading Grade-Level Text

3. Fluency: Assessing Children

- 3.1 Types of Assessment: Basic Skills
- 3.2 Letter and Sound Naming Fluency Assessment
- 3.3 Word Recognition Fluency Assessment
- 3.4 Conducting an Oral Fluency Assessment (OFA)
- 3.5 Scoring an Oral Fluency Assessment

4. Fluency-Building with Letter-Sound Recognition

- 4.1 The Importance of Letter-Sound Correspondences
- 4.2 Three Ways to Make Letters Automatic
- 4.3 Phonemic Awareness to Build Fluency
- 4.4 Effective Phonics Instruction for Fluency
- 4.5 Building Speed with "Word Chunks"

5. Fluency-Building: Word Recognition and Vocabulary

- 5.1 The Importance of Word Recognition and Vocabulary
- 5.2 Understanding Word Families, Base Words, and Affixes
- 5.3 Making High Frequency Words Automatic
- 5.4 Using Speed Drills
- 5.5 Vocabulary Development: Using Word Webs

6. Fluency-Building with Grade-Level Text

- 6.1 Comprehension: The Goal of Fluency
- 6.2 A Modeled Fluent Reading Technique: Oral Recitation
- 6.3 Oral Reading: Choral and Echo Reading
- 6.4 Readers Theater
- 6.5 Partner Readings

7. Fluency: Making It Work In Your Classroom

- 7.1 Setting Up Your Classroom: The Fluency Corner
- 7.2 Fitting Fluency into Classroom Routines
- 7.3 Using Different Types of Text to Build Fluency
- 7.4 Independent Repeated Readings
- 7.5 Achieving Fluency Goals and Moving On