



July 2025
THINK PIECE



Flying High
English Hubs



Department
for Education

AUTHENTIC SUPPORTIVE CHALLENGING

How can children's comprehension of a text be developed?



Katy Armstrong
English Hub Lead

Schools often ask us for support with **reading beyond phonics** as they find that their children have learnt all of the alphabetic code and can pass the PSC but their Y6 outcomes are much lower as their children are not showing good comprehension of what they've read. Often, the missing piece of the puzzle is fluency.

“**Fluency, the bridge from word recognition accuracy to text comprehension**

– Tim Rasinski, 2003

Reading fluency is often misunderstood as merely reading quickly and is not always specifically taught. However, Tim Rasinski describes reading fluency as "a bridge from word recognition accuracy to text comprehension."

What do we mean by fluency? As explained by the EEF, fluency has 3 components:



Accuracy

Decoding and reading words correctly. Pupils' level of accuracy will impact on the speed at which they read and the ease of reading.



Automaticity

Reading words without thinking about the decoding process as these words have been stored in the memory through orthographic mapping.



Prosody

Using the appropriate intonation and expression when reading considering the volume, pace and phrasing to reflect what the text is telling us.

TIME TO

REFLECT



How do you develop reading fluency in your school?



Which fluency strategies have been the most effective in your classrooms?



If fluency instruction is something that you want to develop in your school, join our brand-new programme for 2025/26 **Reading Fluency: the Bridge to Comprehension**.

**Book
Here**





2025-26 PROGRAMMES

READING

FLUENCY

The Bridge to Comprehension

NEW FOR
2025-26



Schools should
choose a Key Stage 2
reading fluency
programme leader



[Book Here](#)

Reading fluency plays a vital role in reading success. It is often described as the bridge between word reading and comprehension. Effective fluency instruction builds on pupils' secure phonics foundations and supports them in becoming confident, competent readers who comprehend and enjoy what they read.

In this modular programme, delegates will explore what reading fluency is – and what it isn't – while learning how to apply evidence-informed strategies in reading lessons, within Key Stage 2 classrooms, to help all pupils become successful, volitional readers. This programme is designed to enhance and complement current reading practice and policy in school.

Audience: Schools should choose a Key Stage 2 reading fluency programme leader to attend the CPD. This could be a reading lead or an aspiring leader. The programme is designed for colleagues who are at the beginning of their work on reading fluency, or those who have begun this work but are keen to deepen their knowledge of the research and practices that underpin effective teaching of reading fluency at Key Stage 2.

FACILITATORS



Cath Wilkes

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist



Angelina Brett

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist

6 Sessions:

Session 1 TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 1pm-4pm	Session 2 TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER 1pm-4pm	Session 3 TUESDAY 27th JANUARY 1pm-4pm
Session 4 TUESDAY 17th MARCH 1pm-4pm	Session 5 TUESDAY 5th MAY 1pm-4pm	Session 6 TUESDAY 23rd JUNE 1pm-4pm



2025-26 PROGRAMMES



Upcoming CPL

TEACHER

READING GROUPS

Support to develop Reading for Pleasure in your classroom



Teachers,
librarians, student
teachers and
support staff



[Book Here](#)

In conjunction with the Open University and UKLA, the Teachers' Reading Group will support delegates in developing an understanding of RfP pedagogy, developing evidence-informed practice and widening their knowledge of the stunning literature and the other texts written for children. Designed for any school adults who wish to further develop their skills and expertise in developing reading for pleasure.

5 Sessions:		
Session 1 THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER 4pm-5.30pm	Session 2 THURSDAY 27th NOVEMBER 4pm-5.30pm	Session 3 THURSDAY 22nd JANUARY 4pm-5.30pm
Session 4 THURSDAY 19th MARCH 4pm-5.30pm	Session 5 THURSDAY 7th MAY 4pm-5.30pm	

FACILITATOR



Katy Armstrong

Flying High English Hub
Lead

TRANSFORM

YOUR SCHOOL'S READING CULTURE

Sustained, research-based CPD programme to develop RfP



Headteachers,
English Leads,
Reading Leads



[Book Here](#)

During the course of this programme, participants will engage deeply with Reading for Pleasure pedagogy and Leadership theory to transform their school's reading culture.

Participants will attend 5 sessions and complete gap tasks in between sessions. Those who commit will be expected to attend all sessions.

5 Sessions:		
Session 1 WEDNESDAY 5th NOVEMBER 9am-4pm	Session 2 WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 12.30pm-4pm	Session 3 MONDAY 9th MARCH 12.30pm-4pm
Session 4 WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 12.30pm-4pm	Session 5 TUESDAY 24th JUNE 12.30pm-4pm	

FACILITATORS



Gemma Goff

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist



Suzie Jones

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist



2025-26 PROGRAMMES

SUPPORTING

EARLY LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

High Quality Early Language Development



EYFS Leads, Literacy
Leads, Headteachers,
KS1 & reception
teachers and TAs



[Book Here](#)

Developed in conjunction with Speech and Language UK, this fully funded Programme concentrates on practical classroom skills and techniques to improve the school environment and outcomes for Reception & KS1 children.

Widen your understanding of the stages of 'typical' language development, concentrating on the expected milestones that occur during primary years. Learn how to implement a working model of language, to observe language development and support those who may not be developing language skills as expected, in class.

6 Sessions:

Session 1 TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 9am-12pm	Session 2 WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER 9am-12pm	Session 3 WEDNESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 9am-12pm
Session 4 THURSDAY 26th MARCH 9am-12pm	Session 5 WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 9am-12pm	Session 6 THURSDAY 9th JULY 9am-12pm

FACILITATOR



Mary Prest

Early Education expert &
facilitator

READING

AMBITION FOR ALL

Teaching children who need the most support



Headteachers, English
Leads, Reading Leads,
SENDCo's & Senior
Leaders



[Book Here](#)

We want to teach every child to read!

This programme explores the appropriate teaching, support and provision of phonics teaching for children not reading at age-related expectations, with a particular focus on those with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It draws on the latest research about how children learn to read and effective approaches to teaching those who need specific adaptations to make progress.

The programme will enable participants to confidently assess, plan and teach reading to all children using the guidance and resources from their chosen SSP programme.

FACILITATORS



Emma Pye

Flying High Inclusion Lead
Practitioner



Angelina Brett

Flying High English Hub
Literacy Specialist

5 Sessions:

Session 1 WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 9am-4pm	Session 2 WEDNESDAY 28th JANUARY 1.30pm-4pm	Session 3 WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH 1.30pm-4pm
Session 4 WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 1.30pm-4pm	Session 5 THURSDAY 25th JUNE 1.30pm-4pm	



Flying High
English Hubs



Department
for Education

NETWORK

EARLY READING LEADS



Early Reading
Leads

Date

TUESDAY
20th
NOVEMBER
1.30pm-4pm

In Person



[Book Here](#)

Join Katy, our Hub Lead, for an afternoon of networking with other Early Reading Leads and refining practice to ensure phonics teaching is of the highest quality.



FACILITATOR



Katy Armstrong

Flying High English Hub
Lead

VIRTUAL

AUTHOR VISIT

With Swappna Haddow



Year 2, 3 & 4
Classrooms

Date

FRIDAY
28th
NOVEMBER
10am-11am

Virtual



[Book Here](#)

We are delighted to announce that Swappna Haddow will be joining us (all the way from New Zealand!) for our next Virtual Author Classroom Visit!

During this session, Swappna, author of the Dave Pigeon and Bad Panda series (amongst many others) will share some of her books and the process that she takes when writing them. Audience- Suitable for children in Y2, Y3 and Y4.





AUTHOR IN

THE SPOTLIGHT

Peter Burns

Author of ten acclaimed sports non-fiction books before pursuing his dream of writing children's books.

If you're looking for an exciting and immersive adventure, Peter Burns' "Shadow Thieves" is a great choice!

Burns masterfully weaves themes of friendship, loyalty, and resilience into the narrative, making it not just an adventure story, but also a tale of personal growth and moral complexity. "Shadow Thieves" is perfect for fans of action-packed adventures like "Skandar" and "Percy Jackson."



Join the Teachers' Reading Challenge 2025!

Brought to you by The Reading Agency and The Open University, this free challenge is designed for teachers, librarians, and education staff to expand their knowledge of contemporary children's literature. Discover diverse reads, earn badges, access engaging resources, and join a vibrant community of educators passionate about Reading for Pleasure. Sign up today and help inspire the next generation of readers!



Find out more