



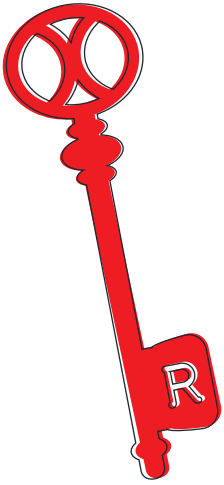
Read Smoothly

Keys to
Fluency

**Ruby
Reader**

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Read Smoothly



Keys for the Teacher

We often teach emergent readers to track words across a sentence by touching each word as they read. This is an effective tool in the beginning to help children maintain focus and support one to one correspondence between words printed and words read. Yet, down the line it can impede fluency as children continue to read word by word rather than in complete phrases. Reading smoothly can be an important strategy to introduce as a student's accuracy skills improve.

Keys for the Children

Good readers sound smooth and natural as they read aloud.

Lesson

Begin teaching this strategy by showing two hand signals that define the words “smooth” and “choppy.” First we pretend our horizontal flat hand is an ocean wave. Move it across the body in a rise and fall wavy motion, while saying, “smooth.” Then we illustrate the word “choppy” by using the edge of our hand to make a quick chopping motion into the other palm.

Next, read the following sentences. Read some in a choppy style and others in a smooth manner. Ask students to show the appropriate hand signal to match the style of reading.

- *I like to eat birthday cake.*
- *I like to ride the school bus.*
- *I'm going to the movies with my family.*
- *My pencil needs sharpening.*
- *Recess is fun.*
- *I like my friends at school.*
- *I can count to 100.*
- *I have a sandwich in my lunchbox.*
- *Snap the marker lid on tight.*
- *Reading makes me happy.*

Afterwards have a quick discussion to reinforce the concept that smooth reading sounds better.

Notes...

1

“Good-Fit” text is a must when practicing smooth reading.

2

For those who are having trouble with smooth reading, begin with one sentence and reread until it sounds right. Practice the next sentence and then combine the two together.

3

Have students practice independently by reading into a “whisper phone” to hear themselves.

4

Mastering reading smoothly will lead into reading with expression and pacing.

