



10 Solutions for Kids Who Read Too Fast

1

Remind your student to read at a talking pace.

Explain that reading should be at the same pace as regular talking—not too fast and not too slow.

2

Read the same paragraph at different speeds.

Read a paragraph aloud to her twice and ask her to tell you which one is easier to understand. The first time, read it extremely fast with no expression and without stopping at punctuation. The second time, read with meaningful expression at a normal, understandable pace. Can she hear the difference? Was one easier for her to understand?

3

Reassure your student.

Acknowledge that she's a good reader and can read very fast, but that you want her to slow down when she reads because you want to understand the words she is saying.

4

Record your student.

Record your student reading at a fast pace and then at a regular pace. She can listen to the recordings to hear the difference.

5

Use a paper guide.

Try having your student use a piece of paper as a guide under the line she is currently reading. See if the physical reminder of a piece of paper—and the act of having to move it as she reads—helps her slow down.

6

Develop a code phrase.

You could have a code phrase to remind her to slow down, such as “speedy bunny.”

7

Have your student read at different speeds.

Read a page to her at a normal pace, and then have her read it at her fast speed. See if she can hear the difference. Then read the next page to her, and have her match your reading pace.

8

Use a kinesthetic reminder for punctuation.

If your child ignores punctuation, teach her to pinch her fingers together when she hits punctuation at the end of sentences. This is a good kinesthetic reminder to slow down for punctuation.

9

Assign a shorter amount of reading.

You can also try assigning a shorter amount of reading. Start with whatever amount she can cheerfully read at a good pace—then end there. Praise her for reading at an understandable pace or with expression, or for any part of her reading that went well. It may be that she looks at the length of reading and just wants it to be over fast, so focusing on a shorter passage done with expression will reinforce the right habits.

10

Try buddy reading.

By taking turns reading each page of a story, you have the opportunity to demonstrate proper pacing for your child to emulate.

Does Your Child Read Too Fast?

Some problems with reading too fast include:

- » Skipping words or inserting extra words
- » No time to think about the text they are reading
- » Not remembering story events or key details
- » Mumbling when reading aloud
- » Ignoring punctuation