
STAGES AND EXERCISES FOR DEVELOPING READING SKILLS

Kimsanova Nozima Mahfuzullo qizi

A student of Fergana State University

Scientific supervisor: **Igamberdiyeva Shahnoza**

Abstract: this article explores the importance of developing reading skills and provides an overview of the stages and exercises that can help individuals enhance their reading proficiency. The ability to read, comprehend, interpret, and decode written language is crucial for effective communication and literacy. The article discusses the key aspects of reading skills, including comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and strategies for finding meaning in texts. It also highlights the benefits of strong reading skills in various contexts, such as the workplace and everyday communication. By following the stages and engaging in exercises outlined in this paper, individuals can improve their reading abilities and become more adept at understanding and responding to written messages.

Key words: fluency, reading, practice, developing stage, phonics.

Reading is a fundamental skill that plays a crucial role in our daily lives. It allows us to access information, expand our knowledge, and engage with the world around us. Developing strong reading skills is essential for success in education and beyond. In this article, we will explore the different stages of reading development and provide exercises to help individuals improve their reading abilities. That is a very comprehensive explanation of reading skills and how they are important in various aspects of communication and literacy. It's true that having strong reading skills can greatly enhance one's ability to understand and respond to written messages effectively. By developing skills such as comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and strategies for interpreting texts, individuals can become more proficient readers and better equipped to navigate the complexities of written communication.

Stages of Reading Development:

1. Emergent Stage (Ages 0-6): This stage is characterized by children's exposure to print and their understanding of basic concepts about reading and writing. Children at this stage may recognize letters, understand that print carries meaning, and enjoy being read to.
2. Beginning Stage (Ages 6-7): In this stage, children start to decode words and develop basic reading fluency. They begin to recognize sight words, understand phonics principles, and build a small vocabulary.
3. Developing Stage (Ages 7-9): At this stage, children improve their reading fluency and comprehension skills. They start to read more complex texts, use context clues to understand unfamiliar words, and make predictions about the text.
4. Fluent Stage (Ages 9+): In this final stage, readers have developed strong fluency and comprehension skills. They can read a variety of texts with ease, understand implicit meanings, and analyze texts critically.

Because fluency is a useful skill that speeds up a child's reading and understanding of texts. It's also important for when they encounter irregular words, like 'of' and 'the', which can't be sounded out.

If a child is a fluent reader, they read smoothly and at a good pace without too many pauses. You'll find that they can group words together easily and use the correct tone when reading aloud.

Word recognition can be an obstacle when it comes to fluency. Children need to have seen a word a number of times before they remember how to say it - the number can be even bigger for a child with [dyslexia](#).

To improve this skill you need to encourage children to practise their reading regularly. This means that they'll be exposed to more words more often.

This 60-Second Reads Bumper Pack is great for short bursts of text that aim to improve reading fluency at KS1.

5. Vocabulary

Children need to understand most of the words in a text to understand what they're reading. Key to this understanding is having a strong vocabulary, which in turn creates good reading comprehension.

They tend to learn vocabulary in many ways: from what they hear their friends and family say, or maybe what they hear on the television, internet or radio.

A child's vocabulary can be increased easily by exposing them to more words. This should be a conscious effort by the adults in the child's life by having conversations about lots of different age-appropriate topics.

When a child reads along with an adult or older sibling it can be useful to stop at more difficult or new words and explain what they mean to create some context that the child can refer back to.

Exercises for Developing Reading Skills:

1. **Phonics Practice:** Phonics is the foundation of reading. Practice phonics exercises such as matching sounds to letters, blending sounds to form words, and identifying rhyming words.
2. **Vocabulary Building:** Expand your vocabulary by reading a variety of texts and keeping a vocabulary journal. Look up unfamiliar words, learn their meanings, and use them in sentences to reinforce your understanding.
3. **Reading Comprehension Exercises:** Improve your comprehension skills by asking questions about the text, summarizing passages, and making connections between different parts of the text.

4. Fluency Practice: Enhance your reading fluency by reading aloud, timing yourself, and practicing with texts at your reading level. Focus on reading smoothly and with expression.
5. Critical Thinking Exercises: Develop your critical thinking skills by analyzing texts, evaluating arguments, and making inferences based on the information presented.
6. Reading Stamina Building: Increase your reading stamina by setting aside dedicated time for reading each day and gradually increasing the amount of time you spend reading. Challenge yourself with longer texts to build endurance.

Conclusion: by following these stages of reading development and incorporating these exercises into your routine, you can enhance your reading skills and unlock the power of reading. Reading is a lifelong skill that can open doors to new opportunities and enrich your life in countless ways. Start your reading journey today and watch as your skills grow and flourish.

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