



**SCHOLASTIC
OFFICE OF
EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE**

Fluency Formula™ Kits

Product Overview

Scholastic's *Fluency Formula Kits* provide teachers with a systematic and explicit yearlong fluency instruction for Grades 1-6. The *Fluency Formula* recognizes speed, accuracy, and prosody (oral expressiveness) as important elements in fluent readers. The focus of this supplemental reading program is on:

- Research-based fluency and foundational skills strategies
- Normed, validated assessment for diagnosing and for differentiating instruction
- Practice using leveled books, audio CDs, and other materials

Instructional Content

In the *Fluency Formula* program, students receive explicit instruction and guided practice in these essential components of reading:

Phonics

- Teachers introduce and model different phonics skills each lesson using high-interest Activity Cards and the Fluency FlipChart.
- Students practice independently or with partners.
- Skills are reviewed during the week.

Vocabulary

- Teachers present key vocabulary words each lesson following the Vocabulary Instructional Routine.
- Teachers introduce sight words using the Fluency FlipChart. After teacher modeling, students repeat words and read sight word sentences.
- Vocabulary and sight words are reviewed throughout the week through direct instruction and student practice using Library books and the Student Workbook.

Fluency

- Teachers model pacing, phrasing, intonation, and punctuation fluency as they read leveled books from the *Fluency Formula Library* and selections from the Read Aloud Anthology.
- After students practice reading aloud together, teachers give feedback and help them read with better fluency.
- Students practice with partners, chorally, and in reader's theater.
- Students read phrase-cued text and do phonics speed drills.
- For independent practice, students complete selected pages in the Student Workbook, read the selected Library book, and listen to audio CDs.

Comprehension

- Students read curriculum-related Student Workbook selections and answer comprehension questions.
- Teachers ask comprehension questions after modeling fluent reading.

Instructional Design

Fluency Formula Kits provide teachers with everything they need to organize their classroom to incorporate fluency instruction, practice, and assessment. In addition, the program encourages teachers to set up a Fluency Corner to organize fluency materials and maximize students' independent practice time.

Lessons last 10-15 minutes a day, and each week follows a standard format. The first two days are designed for whole class activities and concentrate on prosody. On the other three days, on-level or above-level students practice independently; below-level students meet in small groups and receive extra instruction to develop speed and accuracy. Teachers assess selected students on Fridays. The instructional process consists of the following:

- Teachers model fluent reading, including punctuation fluency, using the Read Aloud Anthology and the **Fluency Formula** Library books.
- Students read aloud together, with partners, chorally, and in reader's theater.
- Teachers ask comprehension questions and present vocabulary words.
- Students practice fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension independently using the Student Workbook.
- Students read Library books independently and listen to an audio CD version.
- Teachers build and review phonics and sight word fluency.
- Teachers use speed drills and phrase-cued text to increase students' speed and accuracy.

Assessment

The *Fluency Formula Assessment System*, which is normed and validated, allows teachers to assess, diagnose, and monitor student fluency. Teachers assess all students at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Students who are struggling significantly can be assessed weekly to inform instruction as they move toward achieving grade-level proficiency.

Teachers administer an Oral Fluency Assessment by taking one-minute samples of a student's oral reading of three brief grade-level passages. After determining the words read correctly per minute (WCPM) for each sample, the teacher uses the median score and compares it to fluency norms. The data specifies into which percentile band the student falls. The *Fluency Formula Assessment System* provides explicit suggestions on how to customize instruction based on the student's percentile placement. Instruction is modified as the student progresses from benchmark to benchmark.

Motivation and Engagement

Fluency Formula Kits consist of high-interest leveled passages and books that are easy to read. Students can track fluency progress on a chart, and they receive motivating bookmarks and certificates. Fluency Activity Cards feature fun ideas to use in a fluency learning center and in small group work. Student interest is maintained through guided practice and independent reading.

Intervention Strategies

The *Fluency Formula Assessment System* allows teachers to determine whether a student is reading below grade level, and then to set instructional goals.

- Teachers use the Oral Fluency Norm Chart to calculate the weekly gain in WCPM that is necessary to achieve a target rate.
- Teachers can readily see which lessons in the Professional Guide are recommended for basic or below basic readers and can group students by proficiency level for targeted instruction.
- Lesson plans provide weekly notes that assist teachers in modifying instruction and setting realistic goals for English Language Learners.
- Level Passage Reproducibles, which begin at level 1.0, contain high-interest readings that are ideal for students reading significantly below level.
- Leveled Library books are easy to read and motivate students to practice.

Home-School Connection

The Professional Guide contains specific At-Home Practice suggestions. In addition, students take *Fluency Formula* Library books and Student Workbooks home for extended practice. The program encourages students to read at least 20-30 minutes a day, which can occur at home as well as at school. They may bring home and keep readings from Level Passage Reproducibles.

Professional Development

Fluency Formula Kits include a Professional Guide, which contains specific suggestions in each lesson plan on how to implement the research-based strategies that are a part of the program. The Professional Guide also provides Research Reports and Notes From Research to give teachers an understanding of fluency and its importance in successful reading development. Packaged in the *Kit* is *Building Fluency*, a professional book by program author Wiley Blevins that provides a resource of fluency-building materials.

Scholastic Red professional development supports the *Fluency Formula* program. The facilitated, online courses *Building Fluency, Grades K-2*, *Improving Fluency, Grades 3-8*, *Putting Reading First in Your Classroom, Grades K-2*, and *Guided Reading: Making It Work in Your Classroom* provide:

- Instant access to research and theory
- Video modeling of research-based practices by expert practitioners
- Interactive simulations that allow for practice of skills and strategies
- Structured feedback, collaboration, and ongoing support
- Materials that can be immediately used in the classroom

The *Red* courses take approximately two months to complete. During that time, teachers can study, practice, and revisit the material as much as they need or want. Ongoing access to course content and resources is available for a maximum of six months after course completion. Additional *Red* courses on teaching decoding skills and improving reading comprehension are available.