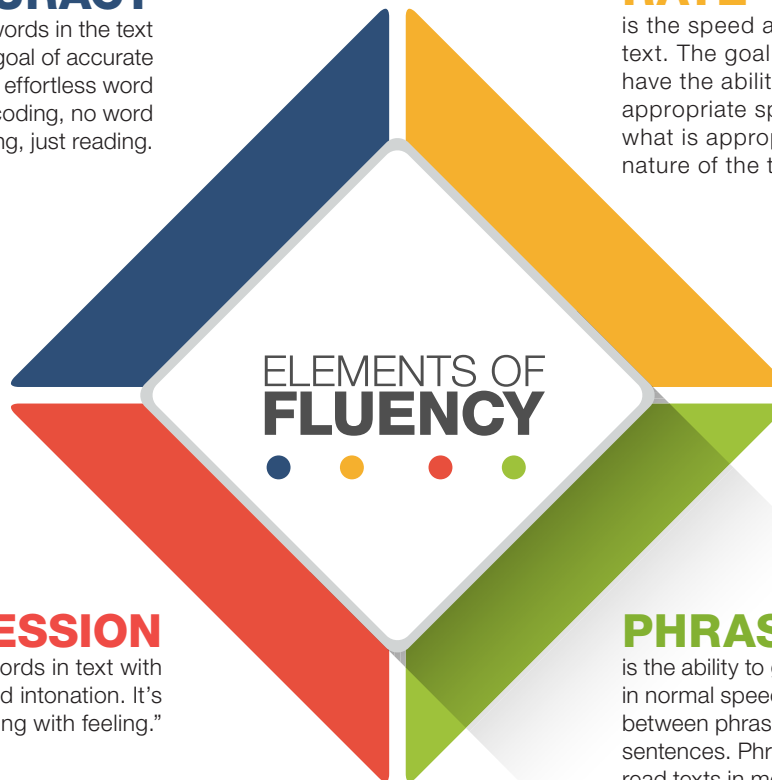# The Elements of Fluency

Fluency, defined as the ability to read words accurately, quickly, smoothly, and with expression, is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. The fluency diamond is made up of separate but interrelated elements that support readers in making meaning from text "on the run."

ACCURACY

is the ability to read the words in the text as they are written. The goal of accurate reading is automatic and effortless word recognition – no decoding, no word solving, just reading.

RATE

is the speed at which a person reads text. The goal is for the reader to have the ability to read the text at the appropriate speed, and, to determine what is appropriate based on the nature of the text.

ELEMENTS OF
FLUENCY

EXPRESSION

is the ability to read words in text with the appropriate stress and intonation. It's often called "reading with feeling."

PHRASING

is the ability to group words together, as in normal speech, pausing appropriately between phrases, clauses, and sentences. Phrasing requires readers to read texts in meaningful chunks, paying attention to prepositions and punctuation.

PROSODY

the defining feature of expressive reading, requires proficiency in all the variables that speakers use to help convey aspects of meaning and to make their speech lively: timing, phrasing, emphasis, and intonation.