

A quick guide to Paired Reading

Reading Together

Read with child. Both of you reading at same pace.

If mistake made, allow 4-5 seconds for child to correct.

If not corrected or error, say word and ask child to repeat correctly.

Use praise!!

Ask questions and discuss what you are reading.

Child Reads Alone

Child gives agreed signal. Praise for reading alone.

Child reads alone. Ask questions and discuss during reading.

If error made, give 4-5 seconds to correct.

If not corrected or error, say word and ask child to repeat correctly.

Read together again until child signals to read alone.

(Taken from 'Scotland Reads' projects materials)

What else does it involve?

Talk

- Talk together about the book (words and pictures).
- Talk before you start, while you are reading, and at the end. Talk at natural breaks.
- Talk to make sure the child understands.
- Listen and give thinking time.

Praise

- Praise **often**, using a variety of different words – smile and sound as if you mean it!
- Praise for good reading of hard words or longer sections.
- Praise the child for putting their own mistakes right without help.
- Show pleasure (smile etc.).

Temptations!

With Paired Reading the hardest things for adults to get used to are:

- Telling the child the correct word without making them 'break it up' or 'sound it out'. It is very important not to make a fuss about mistakes! Paired Reading is about building confidence and fluency.
- No long pauses or fuss over words said incorrectly just lots of smiles, praise and encouragement.

Most of all Paired Reading should be a special time spent with the child.

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Paired Reading



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What is Paired Reading?

Paired Reading is a simple evidence-based method that can be used to help children with reading.

Paired Reading can encourage children to read more independently, to promote a love of books and to become more positive about reading in general.

Paired Reading can be used as a way of building confidence when reading as you do not focus on mistakes.

Paired Reading is usually carried out in pairs; between peers, with a younger and older pupil or between a carer and child.

Who is Paired Reading for?

Paired Reading works best for children who have already made a start with reading. For those in the first stages of developing literacy, adaptations can be made.



What you need

Reading materials

Anything with text – from home, school or your local library. For example:

- Books, magazines, newspapers
- Graphic novels, comics, cartoons
- Short stories, poems, plays or novels
- Websites and blogs
- Leaflets, booklets and manuals

Allow the child to choose the text.

Materials should be age and ability appropriate.

Check how hard materials are to read when the child chooses them. Material which is too difficult will lead to frustration. **Use your judgement!**



Time and place

- At least 3 times per week for 15-20 minutes.
- Allow the child to choose a comfortable and quiet place.
- Sit side-by-side, so you can both see the book.

How to do a Paired Reading

Reading together

Sit side-by-side in a comfortable, quiet place. Talk about the title, author, cover, illustrations, etc.

Start by **reading together**.

Match your speed to the child's, adjusting if the child reads too slowly or quickly.

Pause to ask questions and discuss what you are reading.

Reading alone

Child agrees signal (knock, tap etc.) to show when they want to **read alone**. Praise for reading alone.

Child reads alone. If a mistake is made, allow **4-5 seconds** for the child to self-correct it.

If the child self-corrects, they continue to read alone. If not corrected, say the word for the child and ask them to **repeat correctly**.

Start reading together again until the next signal is given. Remember – praise, discuss and question throughout.