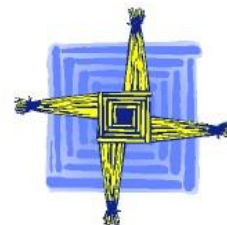


ADVICE ON PAIRED READING



Paired Reading is a good way for parents to help with their children's reading and most children like doing it, because it is relaxed and encourages them to read more. It works well with most children and their reading can improve.

You will need

A wide range of reading material to choose from; use books from home, including e-books or books from school or local libraries. These could be fiction or non-fiction, manuals, comic books, magazines, news clippings etc. depending on the interest of the child. Your child should choose the books, as children learn to read better from books they like. Don't worry if it seems too hard or too easy. Eventually your child will get used to picking books which are best for paired reading. If your child gets fed up with a book and wants to change it, that's fine.

When should you do paired reading?



Try to read for 10 minutes each day for six days a week. Avoid doing more than 15 minutes and do not make children do Paired Reading when they really want to do something else. If mum or dad hasn't got time to do 10mins a night then an older brother or sister, granny or granda can help out. They should do Paired Reading in just the same way as mum or dad. It is sometimes a good idea to let other people watch it being done, so they know what to do if necessary.

Where should you do paired reading?

Try to find a place that is quiet. Children can't read if it's noisy or if there is a lot going on. Try to find a place that's comfortable. Get close together so that you will be able to look carefully and easily at the book.

New Ways of helping

It is often harder for parents to learn new ways than it is for children. With Paired Reading, the hardest things for parents to get used to are:

- When your child gets a word wrong, you just tell them what the word says. Then your child says it after you. You don't need to let the child struggle, or 'break it up' or 'sound it out'.
- When your child gets words right, you smile, show that you are pleased and say 'good'. Try not to fuss about the words your child gets wrong. Give praise for good reading of hard words, getting all the words in a sentence right, putting words right before you do and even for making a good guess at a new word.



Talking is good

Show interest in the book your child has chosen. Talk about the pictures. Talk about what's in the story as your child reads through it. It is best if you talk at the end of a page or section, or your child might lose track of the story. Ask your child what they think will happen next. Listen to your child - don't do all the talking yourself.



Keeping notes



It's handy to keep a note of what you have read and how long you have read for, so each child will be given a diary. You can also make a note in the diary when your child has read really well. Should you lose the copy given, you can download a copy of the diary from the parent's section of our website:
<http://www.stbridesps.org.uk/parent-area/news-sheets/>

Paired Reading has two steps:-

Step one: Reading Together



You and your child both read the words out loud together. You must not go too fast. Make your speed as fast or as slow as your child's. Your child must read every word. If your child struggles with a word and then gets it right, show that you are pleased. Never let your child struggle for more than 5 seconds. If your child struggles for too long or gets the word wrong then:

- Just say the right word yourself, and
- Make sure that your child repeats it properly

Make sure that your child looks at the words. It can help if one of you points to the word you are reading with a finger. It is best if your child does the pointing.

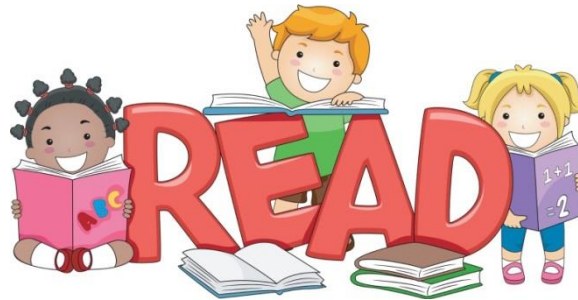
Step two: Reading Alone

When you are reading together and your child feels ready, he/she may want to read alone. You should agree on a way for your child to indicate to you to stop reading. This could be a tap on the book, a wave of the hand, or a nudge. It is a non-verbal sign so your child does not lose track of the reading. You stop reading out loud the moment your child signals, and praise them for making the sign.



When your child hesitates over a word for more than 5 seconds, or gets it wrong, just say the right word for your child making sure that your child repeats it after you.

You both continue reading on together, until your child feels ready to read on alone, indicating for you to stop. You must always remember to go back to reading together when your child has had hesitated over a word.



We hope you enjoy Paired Reading – good luck!

A copy of this advice can be found in the parent's section of our website:

www.stbridesps.org.uk/parent-area/news-sheets/

