

Paired Reading

Books

The reader should choose the book. Everyone reads better from books they like. Most people will get used to picking books that are not too hard. It is okay to change a book if the reader becomes fed up with it.

Time

Try very hard to do some Paired Reading nearly every day. Try to do between 5 and 15 minutes each day.

Place

Try to find a place that is quiet. You cannot read where it is noisy or where there is a lot going on. Find a place that is comfortable.

You will need to sit side by side so that you can look at a book together.

Helping

1. When the reader gets a word wrong, the helper just **tells** the reader what the word says. Then the reader says it correctly. You do not make the reader struggle and struggle, or "break it up" or "sound it out."
2. When the reader gets the words right the helper should give praise.
Do not fuss about the words the reader got wrong.

Talk

Helpers should show interest in the book the reader has chosen. Talk about the pictures. Talk about what's in the book as you go through it. It is best to talk at the end of a page or section, or you might lose track of the story. Ask what might happen next.

Notes

Keep a note of each day of what has been read and how the reader is progressing. A reading diary is a good idea.

Paired Reading **HOW TO DO IT**

Reading together

The helper and the reader **both** read the words out loud **together**. Neither must go too fast. The helper should make their speed the same as the reader's.

The reader must read every word. If the reader struggles and then gets it right the helper should give praise. **Don't** let the reader struggle for more than 5 seconds.

If the reader:

a) struggles too long, or b) struggles and gets it wrong

then the helper:

1. just says the correct word, and
2. makes sure the reader repeats it correctly

Make sure the reader looks at the words. It helps if one of you, points to the word with a finger. It is best for the reader to do the pointing.

Reading alone

When the reader becomes more confident he / she might want to read a section alone. A sign needs to be agreed to let the helper know when to stop reading. This could be a light tap on the desk or the reader could move the book to directly in front of him / her. If the reader has to say "be quiet" he / she will lose track of the reading.

If the reader struggles for more than 5 seconds, or struggles and gets it wrong, the helper reads the word out loud for him / her. Make sure the reader repeats the word correctly.

Then both reader and helper continue reading out loud **together** until the reader again feels confident to read alone and gives the sign to helper to stop reading.

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