

The Paired Reading Approach

How to spend 5-10 minutes with your child and make each second successful and fun!

A reading strategy that can be carried out by parents/carers, grandparents and older children.

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Paired Reading (5 – 15 minutes, five days a week)

Find a quiet, comfy place to sit. Position the book so that both you and your child can easily follow the text.

Let the child choose the book (or other reading material) which they are interested in, from any source and at any level of difficulty – don't worry – most children learn to choose books at an appropriate level. If they get fed up with a book and want to change, that's fine.

Phase 1 (Reading Together- Early Reader)

Child chooses the book, parent praises.

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Child and parent talk about book then read together.

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Adjust to child's pace (you may need to finger point to words).

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If child struggles on a word, correct the error, giving a model of how to read error word.

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Child repeats error word, parent praises.

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Child and parent continue to read book.

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Reading finishes. Child and parent talk about the book, parent praises.

Phase 2 (Reading Alone - Emergent Reader)

Before this stage, explain what is going to happen, e.g. "Now we are going to read aloud together for a while. Whenever you want to read alone just tap the book and I will stop reading. If you come to a word you don't know, I will tell you the word, ask you to repeat it, and begin reading with you again."

Child gives pre-arranged signal, e.g. tap on the book.

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Parent stays silent while child reads alone, and finds times to praise the child.

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