

## Why paired reading?

Paired reading is a tried and tested method that you can use to help the student with reading. Research shows that paired reading can encourage students to read more independently and become more positive about reading in general.

As a reading partner, you can be an excellent role model for the student. You can help them gain better understanding of what they are reading by asking questions and talking about what you are reading.

Paired reading can be a way of giving homework support, but you can use a variety of reading material. Paired reading sessions can be just as effective when you read different texts like magazines, newspapers, non-fiction books and comics.

Your paired reading sessions should be fun and relaxed, and should give the student the chance to practise their reading skills without fear of 'getting it wrong'. You can explain that even you as an adult reader sometimes come across words that you are not sure of. The student's confidence can also be boosted when you give them praise and one-to-one attention.



## Paired Reading Technique

### Before Reading

- It might seem obvious, but it's important that both you and the student are comfortable and sitting side by side so that you can read together.
- If you are reading something new, start by talking about the front cover, the illustrations and what they already know about the subject matter. This helps them to become more confident with the reading material.

### During Reading

- Start by reading together at the same pace. If the student is reading too slowly or quickly, encourage them to mirror your pace. This might be a little tricky at first, but once you have tried it a few times you should both start to get into a good reading rhythm.
- If the student makes a mistake, give them about four seconds to correct it. If they don't manage to, say the word for them and ask them to repeat it back to you, continue to read together, using praise as you read.
- Every so often, pause to ask questions, look at illustrations and discuss interesting points or words in the text. Questions should be open, using words like 'who', 'what' and 'why' - open questions help you avoid short yes and no answers.

- At some point the student might want to read alone. They can simply tell you they want to do this, or use a signal such as a tap on your arm or knock on the table. Praise them for their effort. If, when reading alone they make a mistake, give them about four seconds to put it right. If they correct the word on their own, they can continue to read alone. If they are still stuck on the word, then read the word for them and ask them to repeat it. You then go back to reading together until the student signals again that they want to read alone.

### After Reading

When you have finished reading, there are many fun things that you can do to give the student a chance to reflect on what they have read. Here are some things you can try:

- **Make up quizzes for each other.**
- **Draw or make models of the characters or setting.**
- **Use the internet to find out about the author.**
- **Create a poster advertising the text you have read.**
- **Compare your opinions - would you recommend what you have read to others?**
- **Design a cartoon strip about the character.**



Over the page you will see a handy diagram that you can use as a quick way of reminding yourself how to use the paired reading method.

# QUICK GUIDE TO PAIRED READING

## READING TOGETHER

Read with student, both of you reading at same pace.

If mistake made, allow four seconds for student to correct.

If not corrected, say word and ask student to repeat correctly.

Use praise.

Ask questions and discuss what you are reading.

## STUDENT READING ALONE

Student gives agreed signal. Praise for reading alone.

Student reads alone. Ask questions and discuss from time to time.

If error made, give four seconds to correct.

If not corrected, say word and ask student to repeat correctly.

Read together again until student signals to read alone.



We've tried Paired Reading-  
What else can we do?

## Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to students as they follow can allow you to model good habits. They can listen to, for example, how you use expression to bring reading alive and see that punctuation affects how you read.

## Echo Reading

This is very similar to reading aloud, but here you read a section and then the student echoes or repeats what you have read. They get the chance to practise using expression and pronouncing new words etc.

## Silent Reading

Each of you read silently from time to time, either sharing the same text or reading different texts. You can then discuss what you have been reading and ask each other questions.

## What sort of texts can we read?

Examples of texts that might be enjoyed include:

- Graphic novels, comics, cartoons
- Short stories, poems, plays or novels
- Newspapers and magazines
- Leaflets, booklets and reference material
- Appropriate websites and blogs



# Paired Reading

