

## Supporting your child with their reading - Paired Reading

Paired reading involves the skilled reader and learner reader reading aloud together. It is a strategy designed to take the pressure away from the child who may find reading challenging. It is a supportive approach where the child is encouraged to read as many or as few words as they feel comfortable. This should then begin to instill the idea that reading is nothing to be feared. The process supports fluency as it encourages continuity rather than stopping at difficult words. This helps the child obtain meaning from the text as well as develop expression and phrasing which is modelled to them. Paired reading is a useful way of giving children access to books which are at their interest level but not necessarily within their reading capacity.

### Other advantages

- Children get their own time and attention – there is evidence that this alone can improve reading.
- Children get through books faster because they are supported and therefore it increases the amount of sheer practice children get at reading.
- It gives parents a clear, straightforward and enjoyable way of helping their children.

### What do I need?

- A range of books to choose from – from home, school or the Oxford E-Learning Library.
- Newspapers or magazines

The child should choose the reading material. They learn better from books they like. Don't worry if it seems too hard, the adult helps the child through the difficult bits. The child also learns to choose books at a more appropriate level and because they have chosen the book the reading is enjoyable for them.

### Who can do it?

Parents, carers, teachers, teaching assistants, peer tutors, grandparents, older brothers or sisters – someone who is a skilled reader.

### How does it work?

Find a quiet place with few distractions; be comfortable; sit so you can both see the book together. It is best to try and do some Paired Reading **every day**, even for **5-10 minutes**. Don't do more than 15 minutes unless the child really wants to. There are two stages to paired reading:

When you are reading with your child:

1. You and your child read the page together at the same time. You may need to adjust your speed so you are reading at the same speed as your child. Try and model the punctuation needed in the reading, with expression in your voice.
2. Do not let your child struggle on a word for longer than 5 seconds, at this time just say the word yourself for them.
3. Make sure your child can follow the words along the page, you may want to use a ruler or your finger to point to the correct words.

When your child would like to try and read alone:

1. After reading together with your child, they may feel confident enough to have a go at reading some parts alone.
2. Before this happens, agree a non-verbal signal between you and your child (a tap on the table, a nudge etc).
3. Start reading together with your child. When they do the signal, you should stop reading with your child and let them read alone.
4. If your child struggles with a word, or gets it wrong (don't let them struggle for longer than 5 seconds), you can assist and read the word for them.
5. Join back in with your child, and read with them until they give the signal again that they would like to read independently.
6. Always go back to reading together when your child has a problem with a word.