

Parents & Family Members:

Every Child's First & Forever Teachers



Strategy #2 Paired Reading

What is Paired Reading?

Paired Reading is like choral reading we did in the old days but it is just two people – an adult or an fluent older child reading with a young child. Another name for it is ‘assisted reading’ where the child gets one-on-one help. For 10 minutes (or as much as the child enjoys), the two readers read the same print at the same time together.

Why Pair Read with My Child?

Practice is the key to reading success. Research is clear that daily paired reading with children can make ‘wow’ progress in every area of their reading – learning new words, fluency, understanding of reading, and best of all, reading success overall.

What do I need to Pair Read with my Child?

- A parent (or grandparent, guardian, an older brother or sister, or any loving relative) to lead the echo reading;
- A book or poem that the child can read easily.

How do I Pair Read with my child?

Sit together so you can both see the sentence.

1. Let the child choose the book or poem. This will make the child is more likely to want to pair read. Check to be sure it is not too hard for them to read.
2. On a signal from the leader, begin to read together. Ask the child to follow each word with a finger. The leader reads slowly enough that the child can easily keep up. If it is easy for the child, the leader can speed up.
3. If the reading is too hard for the child, the leader can read louder (which will help the child) and slow down a bit. If it is still too hard the leader can find an easier book).
4. Continue this practice for 5 to 10 minutes or until the child loses interest. Remember Paired Reading is a special and fun experience for both readers.

Tips for Parents

- If your child makes a word mistake when Paired Reading the leader points to the word, says the right word, has the child repeat it, but don't stop. At the end of the reading go over the ones that were errors and practice saying them, repeating them and talking about them. The leader might make a list to practice later. Try putting it on the fridge for lots of daily practice.
- Remember to use lots of expression
- You want this to be a happy experience so show excitement as they copy your reading. "Good job! Terrific! Great reading! Well done!"
- Point out exclamation marks, question marks, commas and periods and explain how they affect how you read.
- Find a special time in the day for Paired Reading. Make it a fun, special experience just between the two of you. Try to Pair Read several times a week.
- *A treat at the end would probably be welcome!*