

## ADVICE ON PAIRED READING

Paired Reading is a good way for parents to help with their children's reading and most children like doing it, because it is relaxed and encourages them to read more. It works well with most children and their reading can improve.

### You will need

A wide range of reading material to choose from; use books from home, including e-books or books from school or local libraries. These could be fiction or non-fiction, manuals, comic books, magazines, news clippings etc. depending on the interest of the child. Your child should choose the books, as children learn to read better from books they like. Don't worry if it seems too hard or too easy. Eventually your child will get used to picking books which are best for paired reading. If your child gets fed up with a book and wants to change it, that's fine.

### When should you do paired reading?

Try to read for 10 minutes each day for six days a week. Avoid doing more than 15 minutes and do not make children do Paired Reading when they really want to do something else. If mum or dad hasn't got time to do 10mins a night then an older brother or sister, granny or granda can help out. They should do Paired Reading in just the same way as mum or dad. It is sometimes a good idea to let other people watch it being done, so they know what to do if necessary.

### Where should you do paired reading?

Try to find a place that is quiet. Children can't read if it's noisy or if there is a lot going on. Try to find a place that's comfortable. Get close together so that you will be able to look carefully and easily at the book.

### New Ways of helping

It is often harder for parents to learn new ways than it is for children. With Paired Reading, the hardest things for parents to get used to are:

☑ When your child gets a word wrong, you just tell them what the word says. Then your child says it after you. You don't need to let the child struggle, or 'break it up' or 'sound it out'.

☑ When your child gets words right, you smile, show that you are pleased and say 'good'. Try not to fuss about the words your child gets wrong. Give praise for good reading of hard words, getting all the words in a sentence right, putting words right before you do and even for making a good guess at a new word.

### Talking is good

Show interest in the book your child has chosen. Talk about the pictures. Talk about what's in the story as your child reads through it. It is best if you talk at the end of a page or section, or your child might lose track of the story. Ask your child what they think will happen next. Listen to your child - don't do all the talking yourself.

### Keeping notes

It's handy to keep a note of what you have read and how long you have read for, so each child will be given a diary. You can also make a note in the diary when your child has read really well. Should you lose the copy given, you can download a copy of the diary from the parent's section of our website: <http://www.stconorsps.org.uk/parent-area/news-sheets/>