

## OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PAIRED READING

Don't try to ask a lot of questions about the reading material. Instead, discuss it together. Talk about what you like, and predict what might happen next.

Praise the child for:

- Reading smoothly.
- Figuring out hard words.
- Self-correcting.
- Reading carefully.
- Thinking as he or she reads.

Keep track of what you are doing. Keep a chart of the days you read, what you have read, or how many pages.

Set a regular time each day.

Don't worry if your reading is not perfect and you make mistakes. It is actually good for children to see adults get mixed up as they read, then fix things up and move on.

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## PAIRED READING

A simple way for parents, other adults, or friends to help youngsters become more independent and feel positive about themselves as readers

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## WHAT IS PAIRED READING?

It's an approach to helping youngsters practice reading in an environment of support.

In a nutshell, the child and another person (parent, friend, etc.) read together at the same time from a book the child has chosen, and then, when the child feels ready, he or she reads aloud alone.

## WHY DO IT?

Research has shown that students who do paired reading on a daily basis make strong gains both in reading accuracy and comprehension.

Children in the early stages of reading need lots of frequent support – especially from people who matter to them, such as parents. Like riding a bike, learning to read is risky, but practice with encouragement helps children learn successfully.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Paired reading is for anyone who has already begun reading, usually first grade and up. If older students are interested, it can work well for them as well.

## HOW DO YOU DO PAIRED READING?

There are really only two steps to Paired Reading: *Reading Together* and *Reading Alone*.

## STEP 1: Reading Together

Let the child choose a book for you to read together. You might want to help out by providing the child with a group of books to choose from. It is better for the book to be too easy than too hard. Begin by reading aloud together, having your voice provide a good model of fluent oral reading. Go at a comfortable speed so that the child can keep up with your reading, but do not stop if the child makes an error. Slide your finger under the words as you read to encourage the child to attend to the written word.

## STEP 2: Reading Alone

The child then reads alone, pointing to the words as you follow along. When he or she struggles on a word for 4-5 seconds or gets a word wrong, you read the word out loud correctly for the child. Have the child repeat it, and then you simply join in and read the sentence together again.

## DURING BOTH STEPS

An important part of Paired Reading is encouragement and sharing. Let your child know that he or she is doing well, and stop often to enjoy the book together.

The reading should be spontaneous with few pauses. The goal is to cover as many pages as possible without causing physical discomfort. You should not try to teach sounds, words, or comprehension strategies.