

MARSHFIELDS SCHOOL

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S	Successful
H	Happy
A	Aspiring
P	Purposeful
E	Exciting
D	Diverse

Paired Reading - A Guide for Parents

PAIRED READING is a good way for parents and carers to help with their children's reading. It works well with most children and their reading gets much better. Most children like it - it helps them want to read.



What You Need:

Books: Choose books, magazines or newspapers from home, from school or the library. Peterborough City Library is on Broadway in the city centre and they have a good selection of books, magazines, etc. There may be a Library closer to your home - the City Library can tell you where your nearest library is.

Your child should choose their own book - young people learn to read better from books they like. Don't worry if it seems too hard. In Paired Reading you can help them through the hard bits.

If your child gets fed up with a book, and wants to change it, that's O.K. If the book is not interesting, they will choose more carefully next time.

Time: Try hard to do some Paired Reading nearly every day, even if only for 5 minutes. Aim for 5 days per week. Don't do more than 15 minutes unless your child wants to carry on.

If you haven't got the time to do Paired Reading 5 days a week, grandma or grandpa or older brother or sister may like to help. They must all do it in the same way though, or the child will get mixed up.

Place: Try to find a place that's fairly quiet. It's difficult to read when it's noisy, or when there's lots going on.

Try to find a place that's comfy. If you're not comfortable, you'll both be shifting about. Then you won't be able to look carefully at the book together.

You both need to be able to see the book easily - or one of you will get neck-ache!



New Ways of Helping

It's often harder for parents to learn new ways than it is for young people! With Paired Reading, the hardest things for parents to get used to are:-

- ✚ When your child gets a word wrong, ask them to sound out the word and if they are still not sure you just tell them what the word says. You say the word correctly, and then your child says it after you. Don't let them struggle and don't jump in and put the word right straight away, Give them 4 or 5 seconds to see if they can put it right by themselves. However, if they zoom straight past a mistake without noticing it, you may have to point out the mistake a bit quicker.
- ✚ When your child reads well, encourage them and show them that you are pleased. Praise for: good reading of hard words, getting all the words in a sentence right and putting wrong words right before you do (self-correction).

Talk

Show interest in the book your child has chosen. Talk about any illustrations or pictures. Talk about what's in the book as your child goes through it. It is best to talk at the end of a page or section, or they might lose track of the story. Ask what they think might happen next. Talk is important as it shows your interest in what they are reading. It also checks on their understanding without seeming like a "test".

Reading Together

To start with, especially when reading something which is harder, both read the words out aloud together. You must not go too fast. Make your speed the same as your child's. This helps them through the hard bits and gives a good example of how to read well.

Your child must read every word. If they struggle and then get it right, show them you are pleased. But if your child hasn't said the word right in 4-5 seconds, just say it right yourself again, then let the child say it right as well, then carry on.

Make sure your child looks at the words. Especially with harder reading, it can help if one of you points to the word you are both reading.

Reading Alone

When you are Reading Together and your child feels confident, he or she might want to read a bit alone. You should agree on a way for your child to signal for you to stop Reading Together.

When the child signals, you stop reading out loud straight away, and praise the child for being confident.

When Reading Alone, sooner or later your child will struggle for more than 5 seconds or get it wrong. Then you read the word out loud correctly for your child and make sure your child says it right as well.

Then you both go on reading out loud together again, to get back into a flow. Soon your child will again feel confident enough to read alone and again signal you to be quiet. You will go on like this, switching from reading together to reading alone to give them just as much help as they need.