

# Educational Psychology Overview Guide

## Paired Reading

### What is Paired Reading?

Paired reading is an effective, evidence-based method of helping children progress in their reading. This intervention can be used with a child of any age to improve their reading fluency and comprehension skills. It involves a combination of reading together and the child reading independently. Paired reading aims to build upon the child's positives and successes rather than concentrating on mistakes. It helps to develop a child's passion for reading, encourages confidence in independent reading, and builds trust between the reader and reading partner. Paired reading can be carried out using a number of different partnerships: teacher and pupil, parent and child, more advanced peer and skill-developing child. *NB: There should be at least a two year reading age gap between partners.*

Paired reading is for all learners; those in their first stages of developing literacy skills, whom have already began to read and decipher words, or older children and young people who are struggling or reluctant readers.

### How does a Paired Reading session work?

Paired reading should take place in a distraction-free environment with reduced noise at least three times a week for 15-20 minutes at a time, and can be adjusted according to the child's needs and abilities. Any type of text can be used for paired reading such as story books, comics, recipes and leaflets. The child should choose the text, however, the chosen text should have around four new words to a page; enough to enable progress without overwhelming the learner.

The learner should be in control of the book, turning the pages, pointing to the words and setting the pace. For some children, you will need to read the story first, only reading a word when the learner has pointed to a word. This will then build to reading together, with the learner in charge of the pace the text is read. Then it is the learners turn to read if/when they wish. This can be indicated by the learner through them tapping on the book (or another agreed symbol) and you will stop reading aloud. It may take several readings over subsequent days to build a child's confidence up sufficiently to read aloud alone. Praise, discuss and question throughout.

For more Paired Reading guidance: <https://highlandliteracy.com/paired-reading-peer-and-adult/>

<https://uk.renaissance.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Paired-Reading-Schemes-a-teacher-toolkit.pdf>