



What can I ask my child during reading?

- What do you think this book is about based on the cover?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- Who is your favourite character?
- Tell me about your favourite character?
- Does this part of the story remind you of anything in your life?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Can you tell me what happened in the story?
- What was your favourite part?

For more information

Find out more about Gloucestershire Educational Psychology service and to see more of our leaflets for parents:



www.goucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/educational-psychology-service-eps



epsupport@goucestershire.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

National Literacy Trust

Topping, K. (2014). Paired Reading and Related Methods for Improving Fluency. *International Electronic Journal of Elementary Education*, 7(1), 57-70



PAIRED READING

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



What is Paired Reading?

- An evidence-based approach for improving your child's reading skills and attitude towards reading.
- An easy method that can be practised at home and at school, providing consistent learning techniques for your child.
- It improves your child's confidence in reading and comprehension.
- It helps you build a positive relationship with your child and makes reading a fun and enjoyable experience.
- Children should not be forced to read - if they don't want to, the adult can read initially.



What do you need?



Text: a variety to choose from. The most important part is that your child chooses the text and they are interested in it.



Time: ideally 5-15 minutes, 5 days a week.



Place: calm, cosy and close: sitting side by side.



Optional: paired reading diary/chart to track consistency.

How to choose the level of difficulty

Use the Five-Finger Test. Your child opens a book to the first page. They read the page and you hold up one finger for every word they do not know. The number of fingers you are holding up by the end of the page tells you if the book is the right level.

- 0-1 fingers:** Too easy
- 2-3 fingers:** Just right
- 4 fingers:** Worth a try
- 5 fingers:** Too hard



What are the rules and structure?

- 1 Encourage your child to choose a book
- 2 Explore the book, chat about the illustrations.
- 3 Agree on a signal for when your child feels confident reading on their own, e.g., tap, or clap.
- 4 Read together at your child's pace; your child follows the text with their finger.
- 5 Your child gives the signal and begins to read alone.
- 6 If errors are made, allow 2-4 seconds for your child to self-correct.
- 7 If needed, help your child by reading the word and getting them to repeat it after you (without sounding it out).
- 8 Continue reading together until the signal is given that they want to read alone again.
- 9 Talk about the book and ask your child questions.
- 10 Praise your child for their effort throughout!