

## What is Paired Reading?

Paired Reading is where a good reader and a poor reader read together.

The good read (helper) may be a parent, a teacher or another child.

There are three stages:

Before starting to read, the helper and the reader look at the book and talk about the pictures and what the book may be concerning.

1. The helper reads the first page or paragraph aloud making the story as interesting as possible.
2. The helper reads the page again and the reader joins in.
3. The reader reads the page alone and the helper supplies words that the reader cannot read.

## What makes Paired Reading Different?

1. It takes the pressure off the reader because he/she is not asked to perform.
2. He/she knows what the reading is about before he/she starts and so gets a sense of the story.
3. It directs the reader's attention away from the difficulty he/she has with particular words because he/she has already heard them in context before he/she begins to read.
4. It emphasises fluency, understanding and use of context, and the extraction of meaning from the text.
5. It does not concentrate on phonics or sounding out which can break up the flow of meaning.
6. It allows the reader to choose books that interest him/her, that may be above his/her reading level.

## What Skills does the helper need?

1. To be able to make the book interesting.
2. To pace the reading when the reader joins in at Stage 2. Finger pointing may help here.
3. To time the correction procedure when the reader is reading alone. E.g. If the reader makes a mistake or fails to read a word correctly, the helper should wait for a few seconds to see if the reader can supply the correct word. If the reader cannot read the word, the helper should say the word, the reader should repeat it and then continue reading.
4. Knowing when the reader is ready to miss out one of the stages.
5. Knowing when the reader is ready to read alone. A pre-arranged signal - a nudge or tap on the book can be made by the reader if he wishes to continue alone. As soon as the reader makes a mistake, the correction procedure is applied and pair continue reading together until the reader signals again that he/she is ready to read alone.

(Warwickshire Special Needs Support Team)