



Paired Reading is an evidence-based approach for improving a child's reading skills and attitude towards reading. It involves two readers reading one text orally (out loud) together. It is a way for a skilled reader to support a developing reader. It was first used by Keith Topping (1987) as an approach for a parent and their child, but it is widely used in schools in the USA and UK as well. It is quick, easy and effective. It helps to make reading a fun and enjoyable experience for a child.



How to do it

- Set aside 10 minutes.
- Sit comfortably side by side.
- Choose a suitable text. Talk briefly about what it may be about.
- Agree on a silent signal (e.g. a tap) the child will give if ready to read alone.
- Read the text aloud together at the same time.
- The child has the book, turning the pages and tracing the text with a finger.
- Adjust your reading speed so that it is a fairly comfortable fit with the child but don't slow down too much. You are trying to give the child an experience of pacy, fluent reading.
- If the child wishes to try reading alone, they can give you a silent signal. [They may not wish to read alone in every session. That's OK].
- If the child has difficulty with a particular word when reading alone, give them 2 to 4 seconds to self-correct. If needed, you state the word, have the child repeat it back and then continue reading aloud together.
- At the end, reflect on what you read - what happened, what did you like?

Sources: Timothy V. Rasinski (2010) *The Fluent Reader*, 2nd Edition published by Scholastic (pp173-4). Educational Psychology Service (EPS) at Gloucestershire County Council [Paired Reading](#) | [Gloucestershire County Council](#)