

Paired Reading



**How mums and dads
can help their
children to read better**

PAIRED READING



Paired (Shared) Reading is a very good way for parents to help with their children's reading. It works really well with most children, and their reading gets a lot better. Also, paired reading fits in very well with the teaching at school, so children do not get mixed up. Most children really like it - it helps them want to read.

WHAT YOU NEED

BOOKS

Have a wide range of books to choose from; use books from home, school or the library.

Your child should choose the books. Children learn to read better from books they like. Don't worry if it seems a bit too hard. Your child will soon get used to picking books that aren't too hard.

If your child gets fed up with a book and wants to change it, that's OK. Only read a book again if your child wants to.

TIME

When should you do paired reading? Try as hard as you can to do some nearly every day. You only need to do 5 minutes each day, if you want. Don't do more than 15 minutes unless your child really wants to.

Do not make children do paired reading when they really want to do something else.

If the parents/guardians haven't got time to do 10 minutes a night for 6 nights a week, then granny, grandad or an older brother or sister can help. They must do paired reading in just the same way as mum or dad. It is sometimes a good idea to let them watch it being done, so they know just what to do.





PLACE

Where should you do paired reading? Try to find a place that is quiet. Children can't read if it's noisy or there is a lot going on around them. Get away from the TV or turn it off.

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

Get close – reading together can be really warm and snugly.

NEW WAYS OF HELPING

It's often harder for parents to learn new things than it is for children! With paired reading, the hardest things for parents to get used to are:

1. When your child gets a word **wrong**, you just tell them what the word says. Then your child says it after you. You don't make the child struggle and struggle, or 'break it up' or 'sound it out'.
2. When your child gets words **right**, you smile, show that you are pleased and say "good". You don't nag and fuss about the words your child gets wrong. Give praise for: good reading of hard words, getting all the words in a sentence right, putting words right before you do and even making a good guess at a new word. (self correction)



TALKING IS GOOD

Show interest in the book your child has chosen. Talk about the pictures. Talk about what's in the story as your child reads through it. It's best if you talk at the end of a page or section, or your child might lose track of the story. Ask your child what they think will happen next. Listen to your child - don't do all the talking yourself!



KEEPING NOTES

It is a good idea to keep a note of what you have read and how long you have read for. You can also make a note of when your child has read well. You can do this in your child's reading record or use the diary sheet at the back of this pack. The diary could be taken into school, if your child wants, to show to their teacher. This will get them more praise and keep them keen.

HOW TO DO IT

PAIRED READING HAS TWO STEPS:

1. READING TOGETHER



You and your child read the words out loud together. Don't go too fast. Make your speed as fast or as slow as your child's. Your child must read every word. If your child struggles with a word and then gets it right, show that you are pleased. Never let your child struggle for more than 5 seconds.

If your child struggles for too long or gets a word wrong, then:

1. Just say the right word yourself, and
2. Make sure that your child repeats it properly.

Make sure that your child looks at the words. It can help if one of you points to the word you are reading with a finger. It's best if your child does the pointing.

2. READING ALONE

When you are reading together and your child feels good enough, your child may want to read a bit alone. You should agree on a way for your child to tell you to be quiet.

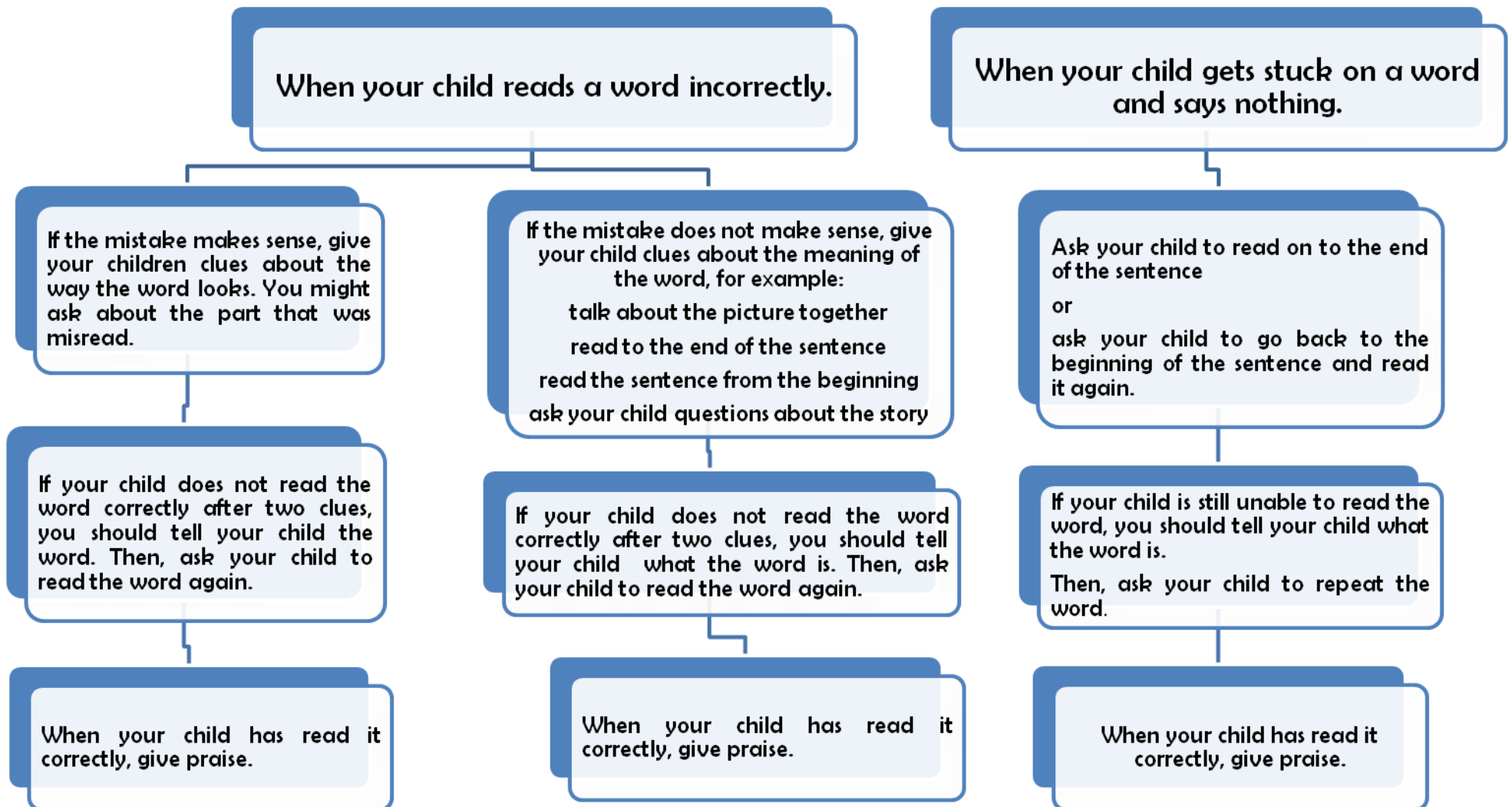
This could be a knock on the book, a wave of the hand or a nudge. You don't want your child to have to say "Be quiet" or they could lose track of the reading. You stop reading out loud the moment your child signals and praise them for making the sign.

When your child struggles for more than 5 seconds, or struggles and gets it wrong, you say the right word for your child. Make sure that your child says it right as well.

Then you both go on reading together, until your child feels good enough to read on alone again, and asks you to be quiet.

HOME READING PROCEDURE

What should you do if your child gets stuck or reads a word incorrectly? First, wait a few seconds to give your child a chance to correct him or herself. If your child then reads the word correctly, give praise. If not, then give the help he or she needs. The diagram shows you how to do this.



PAIRED READING FORM

NAME.....

DAY	BOOK CHOSEN	TIME SPENT	WITH WHOM	COMMENT
MONDAY				
TUESDAY				
WEDNESDAY				
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				
SATURDAY				
SUNDAY				