



Paired Reading at Springfield Junior School

Does your child struggle with reading?

Do they forget what each word says?

Do they forget what the story is about?

Are they easily distracted?



Learning to read is a bit like learning to drive. There are so many things to remember all at once. As with driving, practice makes perfect, but reading to an adult can be very stressful for many children.

Many adults find it stressful too and feel unable to help their child.

Many children read so slowly that by the time they have finished a page, they have forgotten what they have read.

This is because it has been **a difficult and stressful process.**

Paired Reading takes away the need to 'teach' reading. The adult and child simply read together.

With Paired Reading, children are able to read more fluently than when reading alone and so the focus is on the story, making the activity far more enjoyable for both adult and child.

So how do we do it?

- First of all, **find a quiet space** where you can both sit comfortably together.
- **Allocate 10–20** minutes of reading time where you will not be disturbed.
- **Sit with your elbows or knees touching and relax.**
- Both you and your child begin by reading out loud – together at a steady pace. You both say every word. The most important thing is that you keep reading. **You don't make a fuss about mistakes and you don't stop reading to sound out words or do any form of teaching.** You **praise your child** at every opportunity.
- As you read, your child may notice a word or sentence coming up which they feel confident with. If they want to continue by themselves then they will need to tell you – **either by nudging your elbow or knee.** This is a clear signal at which you stop reading out loud and now you listen.
- As your child reads they may begin to stumble over a word – **DON'T correct them or sound it out!** If they pause, give them a second or two and then just pick up reading from that point and your child carries on too. The process should be seamless as if nothing has happened.

Praise them as much as you can.

Because you just join in again your child will not become agitated about making a mistake and the story keeps going and is understood.

Don't try to do more than 10-20 minutes a day but try to get a good routine going so you read at least 5 times a week.

Please watch the videos posted on **Class Dojo and Facebook** to see it in action and feel free to contact me if you would like any further support or advice.

Happy reading, everyone!

Mrs Cormack English & Curriculum Lead

