

### Paired Reading Method

*There are 2 stages – reading together and reading alone.*



#### **Reading together:**

1. Adult and child read along together. The adult needs to adjust their speed to fit the child.  
This also sets the example of how to read well, including using expression and phrasing with punctuation.
2. Read every word. If the child struggles with a word then gets it right give praise.
3. Do not let the child struggle for more than 5 seconds – at this time just say the word yourself.
4. The child then repeats the word – make sure they repeat it properly.
5. Make sure the child looks at the words – it may help to point at the text as you read; ideally the child should do the pointing.

#### **Reading alone:**

1. Agree beforehand a signal between you e.g. a tap, a squeeze, a nudge. (You do not want the child to have to say “Be quiet”) It must be clear and easy to do.
2. When the child signals **you** stop reading out loud immediately, and **praise** them for making the sign (it is demonstrating confidence).
3. When the child struggles with a word and/or gets it wrong **say** the word and the child **repeats** it – don’t let them struggle for more than 5 seconds.
4. Continue reading together until the child gives another sign that they wish to continue alone.
5. Always go back to reading together when the child struggles with a word.

#### Do

- Read every day for 5 – 10 minutes
- Allow child to choose the book
- Follow the rules!
- Child reads **every** word
- Give lots of praise
- Show interest in the book; talk, check understanding
- Keep a reading diary

#### Don't

- Don't allow child to struggle by having to 'work out' a word by sounding out or breaking it up
- Don't Forget the 5 second rule
- Don't jump in too quickly
- Don't make a fuss when they get a word wrong