

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: THE PAIRED READING TUTORING MODEL

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Issue(s) Being Addressed:

There are several research-based models for tutoring children in literacy. Most of these models incorporate some form of one-on-one tutoring, as research shows this model is most effective. Each literacy program has to determine which model of tutoring will work best for their program.

The Bureau of Education and Research (BER) provides quality research-based educational tools for teachers and program administrators. The Paired Reading model of tutoring is endorsed by the BER and is ideal for programs looking for a simple model to administer. This one-on-one format involves the tutor and child reading out loud together until the child feels confident enough to read on his or her own. A positive atmosphere is always maintained with consistent positive feedback that increases as the child begins to read alone. The tutor and child determine starting signals for reading together and also signals for when the child wants to read alone. It is always important to cover reading comprehension as well. Ask questions throughout the story (i.e. What do you think will happen next?) and after (What was your favorite part of the book?).

Key Components:

1. A child should always select what he or she wants to read. Children should never be forced to read something they do not want to read.
2. Run a finger along the line of text to keep yourself and the child on track.
3. When a child hesitates or misses a word while reading together, point to the word and say the correct pronunciation. You may choose to discuss the meaning of the word before continuing to read together.
4. A child may signal to read independently at any point. Any gesture that will not interrupt the flow of reading is acceptable.
5. If a child makes a mistake when reading independently, jump in and point to the word and say the correct pronunciation. Make sure the child says the word correctly and then read on together.
6. If a child is trying to figure out a word when reading independently, wait four seconds to give him/her a chance to figure out the word. If successful, offer praise. If he/she is incorrect, simply say the correct pronunciation of the word while pointing to it, and then read on together.

A Paired Reading training kit is offered through the Bureau of Education and Research. If you are interested in purchasing this kit or receiving more information, please visit www.ber.org.