

Shared Reading

- 1) Commercially available computer software and programmes for phonological and phonemic awareness can be helpful but it is important that these skills are 'carried over' into everyday reading.
- 2) Shared reading refers to a child reading aloud with an adult every day, with the adult and child taking turns to read, e.g. child reads for 5 minutes, adult for 5 minutes, etc. The child follows the words when the adult reads.
- 3) This should be a relaxed and enjoyable time.
- 4) Shared reading can be done with any age group and even slower/reluctant readers in secondary school will benefit from this as it will help them to keep up with the reading of prescribed texts, while improving their reading abilities, speed and comprehension.
- 5) Shared reading needs to be done regularly, e.g. 5 times a week for 15-30 minutes (depending on the age of the child) for it to be effective.
- 6) Shared reading encourages reading and helps a child get 'into' a story/book, and aids reading speed and comprehension.
- 7) Select reading material that is at child's level or slightly above (it should not be too easy as there is no benefit, but also not too hard - otherwise motivation is lost).
- 8) Select reading material that the child finds interesting.
- 9) Read with intonation – this helps to understand the story but also helps children learn to identify the key words, which speeds up reading and understanding.
- 10) Retell the story: In the beginning this might be challenging, so the adult could start, have child tell the next part or talk about another ending for the story or what would have made it a better story.
- 11) Talk about interesting use of language, words that sound similar, etc.
- 12) Reading is an essential lifelong skill. Shared reading helps facilitate both reading skills and an enjoyment of reading.

First we learn to read and later we read to learn - and for enjoyment!

Compiled by Prof Nicci Campbell, University of Southampton. 2010. Updated 2018.

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