



St. Paul's Catholic Junior School.



Dyslexic strategies to support your child at home

Paired reading

What is Paired Reading?

Paired Reading is a specific technique which is a proven way for developing the reading skills of young people.

It is a way for more able readers to help less able readers to develop better reading skills. It has 2 main aspects -

- Reading Together
- Reading Alone

Initially most reading is done together and as the young person improves more independent reading occurs.

Books

The young person should choose the book - they learn to read better from books they like.

If they become tired of a book and want to change it that's o.k.

Only read a book twice if they want to.

Time

Aim for 5 - 15 minutes each day.

Place

Try to find a quiet and comfortable place.

Young people cannot read when it is noisy or where there are lots going on.

Sit close so that you can both see the book easily.

How to do it:

Reading Together

To start with you both read out loud together. The helper adjusts their reading to the young person's speed. The young person must read all the words correctly so if they make an error you say it correctly and they repeat it. Then continue reading together.

Reading Alone

When you are reading together, the young person might feel confident enough to read a bit alone. They should give you an agreed signal and continue to read while you are quiet. If the young person makes an error then correct it and return to reading together to get back into a flow. They may again signal you to be silent. The process continues switching between reading together and reading alone.

Helping

If the young person gets a word wrong, just tell them what it says and then they say it after you.

Don't ask them to break it up or sound it out.

Give the young person about 4 or 5 seconds to see if they will get the word right.

Praise them and show that you are pleased when they get words right.

Pointing to the words might help if it is a difficult book - it is better if the young person can do it.

Show an interest and talk about the book at the end of a page or section. Ask about what has happened and what might happen next. This gives you an idea of the young person's understanding.

It might be useful to keep a diary of what has been read.

Reading with a coloured overlay.

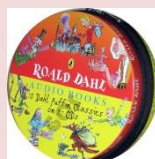
Reading with a coloured overlay can take any visual stress away from reading. Reading black on white can be difficult, so simply using a coloured plastic wallet can take away that strain on the eyes and improve confidence. (Amazon/Tesco)



Reading for pleasure

Use audio books before bed, in the car or on a rainy day to promote a love for reading without actually reading a thing.

There are free audiobooks at: <https://www.readliverpool.co.uk/ebooks/> . We also know how much Roald Dahl audiobooks are loved.



Wooden alphabet letters

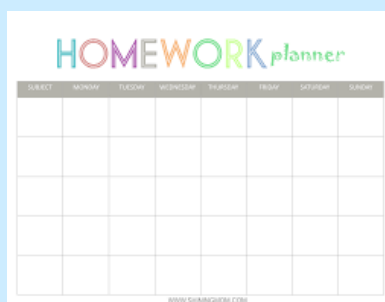
Use plain coloured wooden alphabet letters (same on both sides) and order them, make words from them, pick out vowels etc. The letters should be placed in an arc and will help children to learn the orientation of each letter and their place in the alphabet. (20p a letter on eBay)

**Record work/homework using an ipad.**

Take the stress away from homework. Use an iPad or a voice recorder app to allow children to record verbal sentences. You can then scribe these and copy the sentences/answers up together.

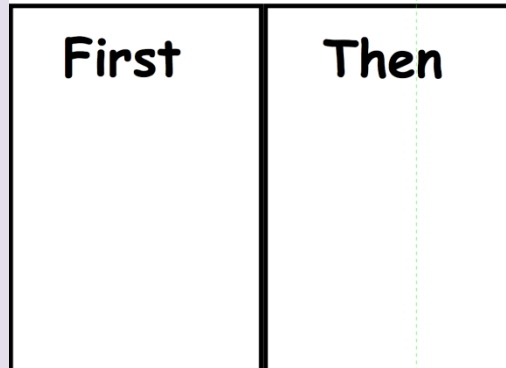
**Chunk homework**

Take the stress away from homework by chunking work into blocks. For example in a reading comprehension homework you could read it to your child on Friday evening, read again and answer verbally using an iPad on the Saturday and then record later that evening. You could even place this on a calendar/homework planner so your child knows what's coming next.

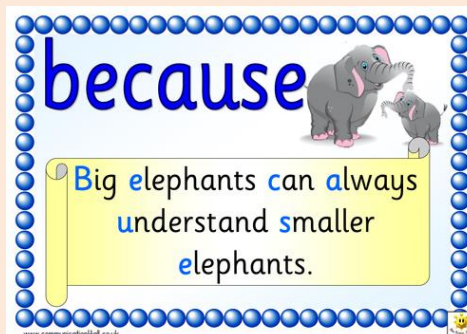


Chunk instructions

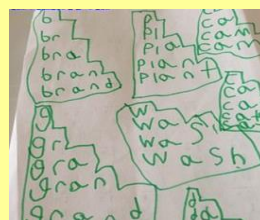
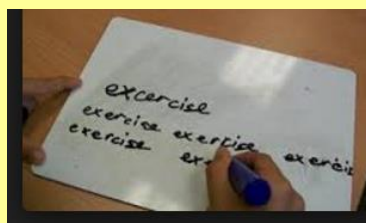
Break up instructions into small manageable chunks. Use the language of 'first' and 'then'. This helps children to process and act on instructions rather than them becoming all jumbled up.

**Weekly spellings 1**

Create a mini bookmark each week of your child's spellings. That way, they may recognise the shapes of any new words every time they use it. Make mnemonics, nonsense poems and rhymes together to help your child remember spellings based around a topic they like.

**Weekly spellings 2**

Overlearn words by writing them out 19 times on a whiteboard/jotter each night. See if your child can beat their time. This will help them to learn the shape of flow each word has. They could also use different colours each time.



Topic word mats

Create your own vocabulary mats at home with your child. Ask him/her about their new topic and research words and phrases together. Present this in a poster/on the computer. Your child can then use this to work a little more independently and confidently at home or school.

