



Paired Reading

Sharing Good Practice



Paired Reading is ...

... Beneficial

- encourages children to reflect on their learning and evaluate their performance.
- fuels children's enthusiasm for reading both within and out-with school.
- raises the confidence of both tutors and tutees.
- transfers skills to other areas of school life.

... Inclusive

- supports the learning of pupils with specific learning needs.
- provides rich learning opportunities for pupils whose first language is not English.
- is an effective way of integrating new pupils into classes.

Pupils' Views on Paired Reading



Primary Teachers in Fife have Found Effective Ways of ...

... Organising Paired Reading

- It is important to have, in school, sufficient amounts of appropriately differentiated reading material which are above the independent readability level of the tutees but which do not exceed that of the tutors.
- Teachers have an important role to play in making sure that the pairs choose a book at the appropriate level.
- The organisation of pairs is very important in the success of Paired Reading. Some schools have changed the pairings (*but importantly have not changed tutor and tutee roles*).
- Some schools have designated areas for Paired Reading within their classrooms. These are generally places with soft seating and scatter cushions arranged to create a relaxing atmosphere.
- Some schools have developed special peer learning folders which help to reinforce the importance of paired activities in the learning process.
- One school uses a Time Tracker Clock to enable children to time their Paired Reading sessions effectively.
- In a couple of schools, pairs are invited to tell the class what they have been reading and to talk about their favourite characters.
- Other schools have re-organised their reading resources by genre, sticking differently coloured tape on the spines of books to help pupils select appropriate books for their interests and abilities.
- In one school badges have been produced to promote Paired Reading making cross curricular links to Art and Enterprise lessons.

... Funding Reading Resources

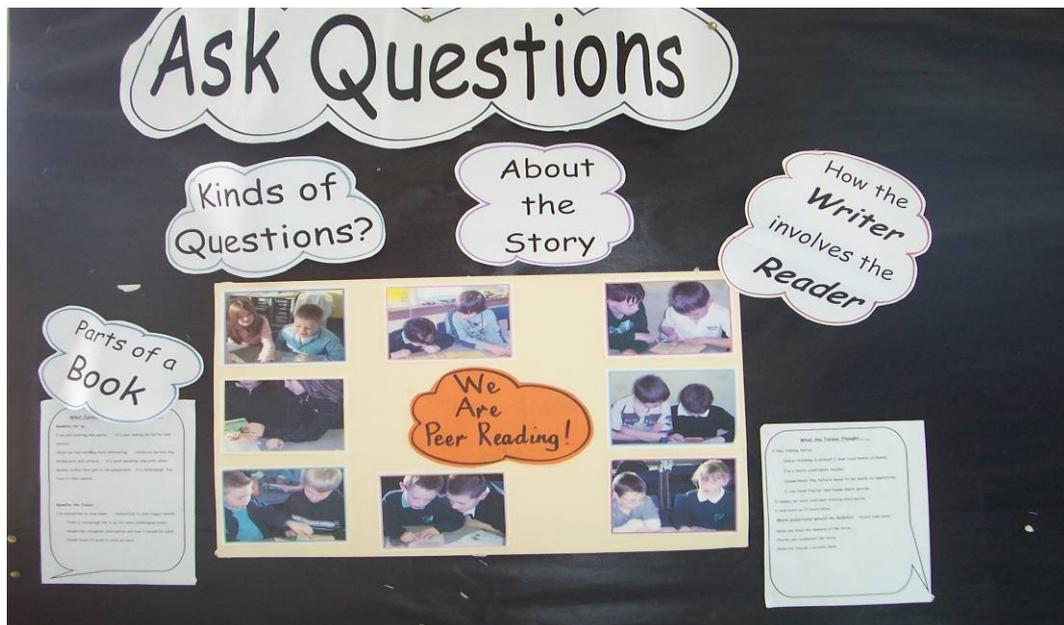
- Use funds from the proceeds of school fairs.
- Host book events and use credit from book companies.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to help choose books bought by the school.
- Create book groups.

... Reminding Pupils of Paired Reading Method and Technique

- Training is important and the best examples of practice have arisen through teachers modelling the Paired Reading method to pupils through role-play.
- It is important that the Paired Reading method is applied correctly and consistently.
- Reinforce the Paired Reading method to pupils at the beginning of each session.
- Some schools have developed flip booklets featuring prompts or reminders for pupils to reinforce the method; others have laminated hand-outs.
- It is also important to remind pupils of the “5 Finger Test” to check the reading levels of books.
- Many tutees have found inventive ways of signalling for reading alone e.g. putting thumbs up.

... Encouraging Tutors to Praise Tutees

- Children become absorbed in the process of reading and some tutors forget to praise. Praise is a vital element of Paired Reading.
- Tutors need to be reminded to resume reading together when their tutee makes a mistake during reading alone.
- Discuss vocabularies of praise and effective questioning with pupils. Reinforce these aspects of Paired Reading by suspending praise words on strings across classrooms and create displays to remind children about the method.



... Encouraging Tutors and Tutees to Discuss Books

- Remind tutors to discuss the book with tutees during Paired Reading to check understanding and develop cognitive skills.
- Some schools consolidate skills using quizzes such as word-searches, hangman and drawings to represent characterization or plot.

- It is important to develop the tutors' active listening skills through Paired Reading and to encourage them to ask their tutees both open and closed questions, praising them wherever possible.
- When the tutor and tutee have mastered Paired Reading techniques, they may be ready to move on to develop their cognitive and communication skills through Paired Reading and Thinking. This encourages tutors to question effectively and to engage tutees in discussion about texts. Please see the Paired Reading and Thinking CD for further information.

... Developing the Teacher's Role in Supporting Paired Reading



- Teacher enthusiasm is essential in developing Paired Reading.
- The teacher's role in Paired Reading is also an active one. Some children need quite a lot of support, especially when choosing books. The teacher needs to monitor the number of book changes for some children. For some low-ability pairings, however, there can be a high turn-over of books because they are very often short in length.
- Teacher comments in Paired Reading Diaries also help to support pupils in Paired Reading.

Remember

- *Do not change children's roles from tutor to tutee or vice versa.*

... Using Paired Reading Diaries

- Many schools have used Paired Reading Diaries as a way of recording progress and flagging up difficulties.
- Two columns can be incorporated into the design of Paired Reading Diaries, one for the tutor and one for the tutee.
- For those pupils who have difficulty expressing themselves in writing, a smiley face system or “marks out of 5” system could be devised to record their response.

How well am I doing?
I have enjoyed the Paired Reading project.
 
My tutor helped me.
 
My reading has got better.
 

SALINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

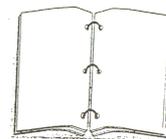
Paired Reading Record



NAME:

TUTOR: _____

CLASS:



Many thanks ...

... for all your hard work in organising, implementing and developing Paired Reading!

We appreciate the time, care and attention you have taken to organise peer learning activities in your schools. None of this excellent work in peer learning could have happened without the co-operation, support and dedication of teachers. We also recognise the valuable roles of Support for Learning staff, auxiliaries and the library service in developing effective peer learning within Fife's schools.

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