

IMPLEMENTING DYAD READING

Because choice is motivational in reading, children should be allowed to choose from three to five books, both fiction and non-fiction texts. **The texts should be:**

- **at their reading level for children in kindergarten or first grade.**
- **two to three years above their reading level for children in 2nd grade and up.**

As reading achievement improves, the level of text challenge should be adjusted to keep children reading at an appropriate level of text difficulty.

THE PROCEDURE IS SIMPLE:

- Share one book.**
- Sit side by side.**
- Use one SMOOTH finger.**
- Read with two voices.**
- Keep eyes on words.**
- Don't go too fast or too slow.**
- Talk about unknown words and the text.**
- Have fun!**

The child can read with a parent, an older sibling, or a friend who is a strong reader. Read for 15 minutes and discuss the text as you read.

Problem solve together to decode the words the child did not know and determine meanings. Show the child how to decode the words—break the words into syllables, identify root words, prefixes, suffixes, or compound words, and provide child-friendly definitions, emphasizing problem solving and decoding strategies. Show the child how to look up words on the Internet or how to use a dictionary.

Children can also read a printed text along with an audio recording of the text. As the children follow along with the audio recording, they hear and see the words in the text, building their recognition of the words in print. Children are also given a model of an expert reading the text in a fluent manner. Audiobooks can be found in many public libraries and through online sources.

CONCLUSION

Implementing dyad reading is relatively easy, cost effective, and practical for parents and teachers. Reading in pairs can strengthen both weaker and stronger readers. Dyad reading with texts that challenged students was a powerful contributor to overall reading achievement for the third-grade students who participated in this study. Dyad reading is a practical intervention that can show positive results in a relatively short time.

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