

Information for parents

Whisper reading

Whisper reading is a highly effective, one-on-one method for improving fluency that makes an impression on several senses simultaneously. It can be used instead of audiobooks if none are available. It is an excellent coaching strategy for parents to use at home with children experiencing difficulty reading.

1. Choose a story the child is already somewhat familiar with, either one you have already read to the child or one the child has read on his/her own.
2. Sit slightly behind the child to the right close enough so you can point to the material being read.
3. Have the child read the story (or part of the story) aloud. Meanwhile, read along with the child.
 - Read directly into the child's right ear. Lower your voice when the child is reading confidently: raise it slightly when assistance is needed.
 - Read with fluency at a rate slightly slower than you would use if reading independently, but not as slow as the child would normally use. Tell the child not to worry about keeping up with you. Explain that the child will read faster as time progresses. As the child's fluency improves, pick up your pace so you are always reading just a little faster than the child is reading.
 - Do not worry if the child reads some of the words incorrectly. For example, if the child substitutes a word which could fit in a particular sentence because it has a meaning similar to the actual word, take this as a sign that the child is successfully trying to make meaning happen. If the child asks you for help with a word, simply say the word instead of asking the child to "sound it out."
4. Afterward, ask the child to tell you one thing the child remembers from the story. Then skim together through the remaining pages, predicting what might happen the next time you might read together. Do not ask specific questions about the story.

Source

Winebrenner, S. (1996). *Teaching kids with learning difficulties in the regular classroom: Strategies and techniques every teacher can use to challenge and motivate struggling students*. Minneapolis; Free Spirit Publishing. P86.

For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

CHERI
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145

Tel: (02) 9845 0418
Fax: (02) 9845 0421
Email: info@cheri.com.au

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