

The 'Listen and Repeat' Reading Technique




ListenWithUs.net

Introduction

The 'Listen and Repeat' method can be merged with any system you have in place for allocating books to struggling readers.

If you intend using it as a 'tool' for your 'buddy reading' programme ensure the children or adults who are using it understand the thinking behind the process as well as the practical steps themselves. They will not require any technical knowledge of 'synthetic phonics' etc. They will be **supporting** and **modelling** rather than teaching.



1. Reduce Stress.

One of the greatest obstacles to learning is high levels of stress. Stress actually causes an electrical storm in the brain that makes it impossible for any learning to take place. Reading produces stress in many children who feel anxious, threatened and humiliated by the experience. Some of the effects high levels of stress have is that the brain . . .

- loses some of it's ability to index, store and access information
- loses some of its ability to perceive relationships and patterns
- is less able to do the 'higher-order' thinking skills
- loses some memory capacity.

Hardly conducive to the learning process!

STEP 1:

Agree a clearly defined amount of reading you expect 'your child' to read based on his/her attention span etc.

This immediately reduces stress as the child knows he/she is not going to be asked to read indefinitely for a sustained period or until a number of pages have been completed.

Should the child indicate they would like to read more that is fine, time permitting of course.

2. The 'Reading Flow'.

The effectiveness of this method lies in children hearing themselves read. It is designed to improve and accelerate their 'reading flow'. With fluency comes confidence and self-esteem. If the 'Listen and Repeat' method is repeated daily you will observe children's fluency and reading confidence improve and gather increasing momentum.

STEP 2:

Select a set amount of text for the child to read. This would normally be a paragraph but is dependent on the child's current ability and confidence level. This is perhaps the hardest part of the process for the 'teacher' as you are not to interrupt the reader until he/she has completed the paragraph.

The only time you intervene is if:

- **the child requests help**
- **it is obvious he/she is not going to continue until he/she is prompted/given the word.**

Even if a child attempts a word and wrongly substitutes it with another (e.g. 'pond' for 'pound') do not correct them. In fact it is an encouraging sign that they are prepared to attempt words they are still unsure of – this is an important learning trait that should be nurtured.

3. Listening to Fluent Readers

One of the most effective ways to learn is to find someone who excels at something you want to be good at and model yourself on them. This is one of the guiding principles behind the 'Listen and Repeat' approach. For this method to be successful it requires children and adults who read not only fluently but expressively.

STEP 3:

Once the child has completed the agreed amount of text (page, paragraph, sentence etc.) his helper then reads it back to him/her fluently and with expression.

During this process the child himself may self-correct mentally any mistakes he/she has made when reading the same text. He/she will also note the fluency and expression with which the same text was read by his/her helper even if at this stage only at a subconscious level.



Wonderful Children's Story

Although my two little children have lots of audio stories, this is the one they enjoy the most! February 2008 - **Helen** from Leeds

4. Einstein's Mother

Apparently whenever he came home from school Einstein's mother never asked him what he had learnt only, "What questions did you ask today?" Struggling readers have often lost the confidence or desire to ask questions and that is why the modelling process is so important. They need to be exposed to excellent role models and simply copy what they do.

STEP 4:

Having listened to his/her helper read the passage he/she attempts it again.

As before, do not interrupt or correct the child at this stage even if errors are made.

Offer no help unless the child asks or it becomes obvious he/she will not continue without a prompt.

Make a mental note of any words the child has self-corrected from his/her first attempt.

Also note the words that the child has failed to read or misread.

5. Mistakes – A Natural Part Of The Learning Process

"There is no original truth, only original error."

Gaston Bachelard – Philosopher

We all tend to have a negative attitude towards making mistakes. Mistakes are crucial to the learning process. Nobody gets things right first time it is how we respond to error that determines how we progress and grow.

STEP: 5

Continue the process until the agreed amount of text has been completed. On completion ask the child to assess his performance.

Offer encouragement but be honest regarding his/her performance.

After a week helper and child should begin to notice an improvement in confidence and reading flow.

Words that caused the child difficulty can be noted. After the reading session is finished simply point to the words the child read incorrectly or simply refused to attempt and ask them to attempt them. Do not make an issue of it if the child is still not able to say them correctly simply give them the word.

Make a note of these words and set them aside for future reference. They can be tackled in a different context during the week so they do not become obstacles to reading progress.

(A particularly effective approach is to use the 'Colour Factor' spelling technique. This technique is based on the fact that spelling is a visual skill. If you are interested in learning how to use it then visit

www.listenwithus.net/reading.html where it can be downloaded in PDF format.

How Audio-Books Can Help Children Read

TV destroys the imagination. Radio nurtures it.

I have seen many superb movies where technology has made the impossible appear real, but nothing bears comparison to my childhood experience of listening to Dan Dare on the radio every Sunday evening. That was truly creepy. As magnificent as Lord Of The Rings may be on screen it could not compare with the fantastic images evoked by my imagination as I listened.

Children need to listen to great stories read by gifted storytellers. They need to be given the big picture of what reading is truly about. This is where audio-books can have a dramatic influence. Audio-books model good reading, set the imagination free and touch the emotions.

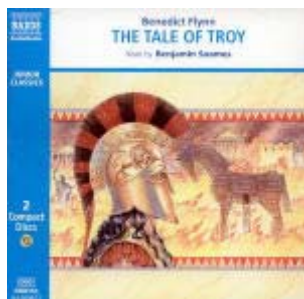
The ability to read fluently is probably one of the greatest gifts we can give our children. Reading enables us to see with the eyes of our imagination beyond the mundane and the ordinary to a place where there are no limitations.

Edison declared, "**I never think in words only picture.**"

Like Lucy we can stare into the shadowy depths of the wardrobe and glimpse strange and magical worlds.



We can leap into the breaking surf and stand alongside Achilles as he gazes up at the shimmering walls of Troy and dreams of immortal glory.



We can shudder in dark underground caverns as we huddle alongside Bilbo Baggins and listen in terror for the flapping of webbed feet on the cold hard floor.



To deny children entrance to these worlds is nothing short of a crime.

Visit www.ListenWithUs.net for more great audio-books.

"What Readers Say!"

[Adam Canfield of the Slash](#)

★★★★☆ Four Star review By: Sammie

This is a great book for all ages including school age kids like me I am 13 and i loved this book! It makes you keep listening and is very exciting!

May 2008 **Sammie** from Lincoln

[Boy with the Magic Numbers, The](#)

★★★★☆

One day when Billy pickles' dad leaves home to live in New York, he gives Billy a money box. Billy is not quite sure where to put the money or why his dad left home. Billy then goes to New York to visit his Italian grand mother and his dad. Finally he discovers the amazing secret of his money box at last. You will have to read the book to find out the secret of his money box. This book was very intriguing and at the beginning of the story I really wanted to know the secret of the money box. When the secret was revealed I was not disappointed. I chose this book because I have previously read other stories by Sally Gardner. I especially like the way she writes about children with special powers, in this case the boy is very lucky with numbers. I would greatly recommend this book to ages 7-12. This book is aimed at both girls and boys. I enjoyed the story very much and I am sure that you will to. Overall I would rate this book at an amazing 8/10.

May 2007 **Danni** from ?

[Bronze Bow, The](#)

★★★★☆ The most great Classic you Will Ever read!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Lizabeth Sphere is an amazing Author you can never forget. The Witch of Blackbird Pond is soooooooooooooooooooooo great. This is coming from a kid!!

February 2007 **Jane** from New York

[Pendragon Book Eight: The Pilgrims of Rayne](#)

★★★★☆ pilgrims of ranye

all i can say is i will never pick up a harry potter book again,and pendragon rocks!!!!!!!!!!!!

July 2008 **jay** from kck

[Return to Gone Away](#)

★★★★★Yes!

This is the best kind of book ever. I did the calculations and these books are about 50 years old.

June 2007

Winta from San Diego

[A Series of Unfortunate Events:](#)

★★★★★!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!THE BEST BOOK EVER!!

This is a great book and very interesting although it is packed with miserable events which follow as you go on, it is a type of book that you wouldn't normally find, but it's brilliant, fantastic, marvellous, excellent and don't forget that it will be one of the best books you've ever read in your whole entire life but ofcourse you'll only know that if you pick it up and read it despite what Lemony Snicket says about how the children in this story have terrible lives or how this book has absolutley no happy ending I STILL THINK THAT YOU SHOULD READ IT, SO TODAY OR PERHAPS TOMORROW I THINK YOU SHOULD FIND THIS AMAZING BOOK AND SETTLE INTO THE MOST SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICXPIALIDOCICATED BOOK EVER

June 2007 **Katie** from London

★★★★★[Toby Tyler](#)

The Toby Tyler Series is a wonderful heart touching story of a young boy. I truly enjoyed every minute of the Colonial Radio Theatre Production. Download all 7 episodes today, I am positive you will enjoy the story as I have.

April 2007

Kristen from Kansas

[Room 13](#)

★★★★★☆The Book and Audio CD

I've read the book and it's really good, i've only just found out there is a Felicity Morgan series! I have only just heard the sample and it was ok, although a bit in the book i don't like is the rhyming at the beginning "The bed of dread and the room of doom" It doesn't sound that interesting, especially as it's in the first chapter! I recommend the book and audio CD for schools and people, but i would say for ages up to year 9's (13/14yrs)

June 2007

Oliver from Portsmouth

★★★★★☆☆???

good i like it.

December 2007

gabi from uk

“Now Your School Can Have It’s Own Audio-Book Web Shop And Raise Funds 24/7 While Providing Parents And Pupils With A Great Reading Resource.”

Why your school should be encouraged to sell quality audio-books:

- For a significant part of their childhood, your child's intellectual capacity will be greater than their reading ability? That means that they can understand material when it is read aloud to them that they would not be able to read. Interesting isn't it?
- Listening to audio books strengthens your child's ability to listen, a skill very crucial for their academic achievement.
- Audio books also let your child hear fluent reading with a bit of flair...a lot of them are read by the author or professional actors.
- If your child is struggling with reading, audio books associate reading with pleasure...so important if your child is to develop a lifelong love of reading!
- Audio books help your child learn to visualize a story by using their imagination instead of the pictures (in contrast, watching television trains the brain to be lazy and rely on images).
- You can play books on CD when you're in the car running errands. Naptime and bedtime are also favourite times to listen to a story. (And if your children are like mine were, you wear out long before they do so books on tape are a lifesaver for helping them nod off after you've done the bedtime story!)

Visit www.listenwithus.net/schools.html for full details and if your school doesn't yet have a free web shop try some gentle persuasion!