

*If a child knows 8 nursery rhymes by heart by the time they are 4, they are usually the best readers and spellers in their class by the time they are 8!*

*Mem Fox*

*Helping your child learn*

# *Talk with them! Talk with them! Talk with them!*

**Optimising language “health” through what parents and educators do, pays significant individual and collective dividends.**

- Each of us is the product of an on-going interaction between the influence of our personal life experiences and our unique genetic endowment and the culture in which we live.
- Human relationships are the “active ingredients” of environmental impact on all children.
- The development of intelligence, language, emotions, and social skills is highly inter-related.
- Therefore, communication is key to the fostering of life chances in childhood.

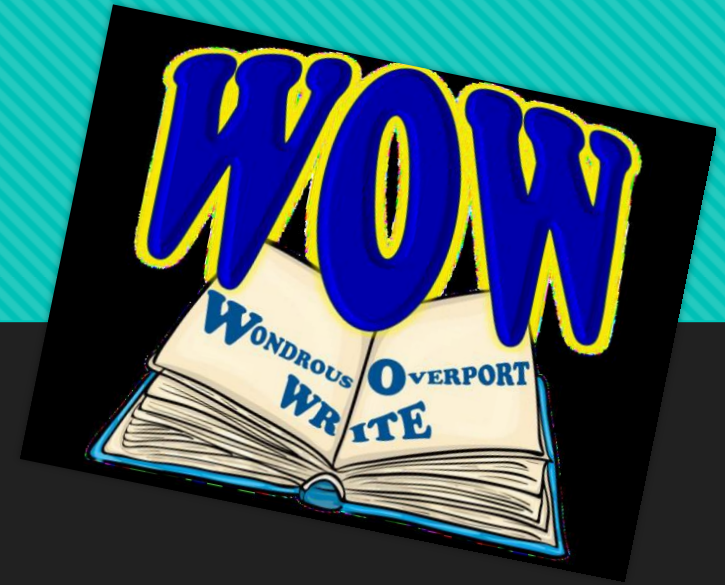
# *Read to them! Read to them! Read to them!*

- Reading and storytelling with your child promotes brain development and imagination, teaches your child about language and emotions, and strengthens your relationship.
- You don't always need to read books. Try looking at picture books, singing rhymes and songs, or telling stories from your history or specific cultures.
- Babies and young children often enjoy books, songs and stories with good rhyme, rhythm and repetition. Older children enjoy serial novels shared together.
- Reading nightly to children or with them is also a good way to settle them to sleep and dream of stories.
- When you are reading, do lots of talking, discussing and questioning. The research shows this is the biggest impact on development.

*Anytime is a good time for a book or story!*

*Try to share at least one book or story every day.*

# Wondrous Overport Write.



Talking with children about writing supports their ability to form ideas when writing!

- Most weeks, all classes spend a few sessions doing sustained independent writing.
- Students have several prompts or writing options to stimulate their thinking and help them decide on what to write.
- There is one particular strategy that has a wondrous impact on your child's writing - TALK. When your child explains or describes their ideas and thinking, it directly impacts their writing.

# How can you help them at home?

Parents are the child's first "teachers".

- Read a book
- Kick a ball
- Play a board game
- Go for a bike ride!

*School homework is simple – some reading, some work around numbers and sharing thoughts about the day all helps.*

- *Each night a take home book is provided for your child and you to read together in the younger classes. Older students may have a novel or e-book to read, Reading every night is critical!*
- Any work with numbers assists – even playing board games. Including your child in the shopping is also a great help.
- Classes may set optional projects that some children enjoy.