

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.

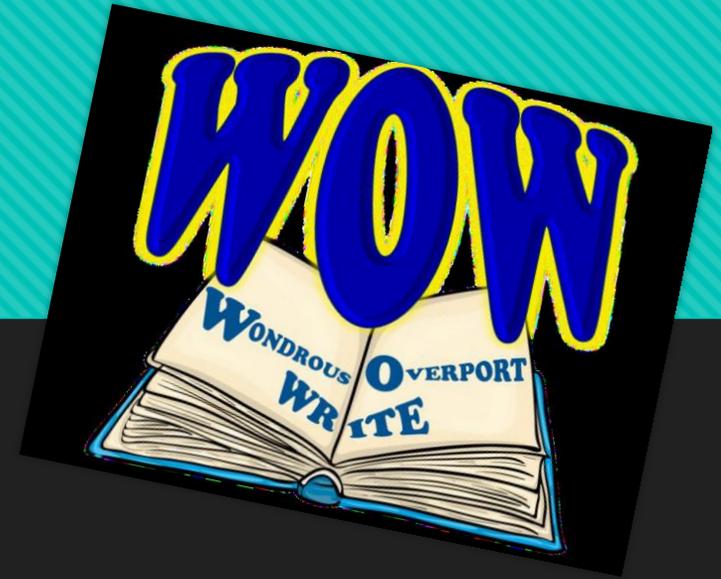
Read to them! Read to them! Read to them!

- 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.