

Waltham St Lawrence Primary School

How Can I Help My Child?

READ! Read often. Read aloud. Read silently. Read books. Read short stories. Read poems. Read cookbooks. Read letters. Read greeting cards. Get the idea? Read, read, read, and read some more!

Take Turns! Be the reader sometimes. Other times, let your child read aloud to you. Reading aloud builds comprehension skills, a sense of voice, and much more.

BROWSE! Discover the fine art of browsing at the local bookshop or the library. Look at books, handle books, read pieces from books. What is it about this book that intrigues you? An opening sentence? The layout (organisation)? The title?

READERS' THEATRE! Read a play or any book that lends itself to two voices. Your less experienced writer will soon have an "ear" for sentence fluency.

READING CORNER! Where you read can be almost as important as what you read. Curl up on the sofa or a favourite chair. A love of reading will lead to a love of writing!

PROVIDE WRITING MATERIALS! Provide plenty of writing materials –paper of all kinds, colours, textures, and sizes, pens, pencils, felt tip pens, post-its.

Write Notes! A personal note – just a few words – tucked in a lunch box or left under a pillow can be a wonderful surprise. If you're lucky, you'll get a response. Writing doesn't always have to be BIG.

BE A WRITER YOURSELF! You don't have to be writing a novel to teach valuable writing strategies – a simple shopping list hold a dozen potential lessons on word choice, organisation, and conventions.

RESOURCES! Have a dictionary handy! A thesaurus? Grammar handbook? If not, shop together for books both of you like. Use them with care. For example, when you use a thesaurus, don't take the first word on the list. Choose the word that's just right!

