



Dear Families of English Learners,

We in the English Learner Department hope that you are staying safe and healthy! In addition to resources provided by your school and the Lawrence Public Schools Learning at Home website, <https://sites.google.com/view/lpslearningathome/>, we want to provide you with additional resources to encourage your child to practice language and literacy at home.

If you speak a language other than English at home with your child, we suggest that you continue to encourage your child to learn this language! Speaking two or more languages is good for your child's brain, helps them communicate with families, improves their English comprehension, and is an advantage in our globalized world.

Here are some ways to encourage your child's progress towards language and literacy:

- Read books or tell stories in your native language or in English.
- Encourage your child to practice reading in English or your native language at home, silently and aloud:
 - *Before* reading, ask them what they think the book will be about
 - *During* reading, pause at different points to ask, "What's happening now?" or "Why do you think the character did that?" or "What do you think might happen next?"
 - *After* reading, ask, "Can you retell the story?" or "What was the author's purpose?" or "What would you have done differently?"
- Have conversations with your child in your native language or in English about topics you both like.
- Encourage your child to look up English words they do not know, either on a phone, on the computer, or in a bilingual dictionary.
- Find reasons for your child to write: thank-you notes, birthday cards, a daily journal, or even the family grocery list. Encourage your child to read what he/she wrote aloud.

Here are some online sites where you can access free books in multiple languages:

- www.getepic.com: Online access to 35,000+ books for students in PreK-6 (English and Spanish)
- <https://mvlc.overdrive.com/>: Digital library of books and audiobooks (English and Spanish)
- <https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts>: Texts for 3rd-12th grade students (English and Spanish)
- <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/>: Read-alouds of children's books (Multiple languages)
- <https://www.thefablecottage.com/>: Read-alouds of children's fables (Multiple languages)
- <https://stories.audible.com>: Audio books for Pre K-12th grade students (Multiple languages)

If you have any questions, please email us at LPEnglishLearnerEducation@lawrence.k12.ma.us or reach out to your child's ESL teacher.

Be well!



The Lawrence Public Schools English Learner Department