

# ***Parents & Family Members:***

## ***Every Child's First & Forever Teachers***



## **Strategy #3 Come Alive Reading**

### ***What is Come Alive Reading?***

- In schools we often call this Reader's Theatre but you can do it at home too with all your children together no matter what grade they are in - or just one child because you will be the main reader.
- You can bring reading and drama together and enjoy each other as you do so.

### ***Why use Come Alive Reading***

- Come-Alive Reading is a fun and exciting way to increase reading success and keep children excited about reading.
- Research tells us that this is a great way to increase fluency in reading.
- Fluency is also one of the most important skills in reading success in grades 3 to 12.
- If children do not get practiced at it in grades K to 3 they will struggle more in later grades.

## ***What do I need for Come Alive reading with my child?***

- A parent (or grandparent, guardian, an older brother or sister, or any loving relative) to be the leader of Come-Alive Reading;
- A book or poem that has interesting characters or chants in it that children can act out. This book does NOT have to be a book your child can read, just a book you can read comfortably and one you can enjoy. Choose one that will be exciting for your child. It can be an old favourite or a new one you have found. We want children to love this experience with you!

## ***How do I Come-Alive Read with my child/children?***

- Practice the story by yourself first to plan; look for lines the character says that can be dramatized. Look for lines that are repeated throughout the book or poem – lines that the children might enjoy repeating.
- Invite your child to listen to you read the whole story to them without stopping for discussion or questions. Model your best reading.
- Tell the children/child you need them to help you make the reading more exciting. Ask them which characters they liked the most and talk about why.
- Tell them you are going to read the main part of the story but you need them to be the characters as you meet them in the story.
- Read the story again slowly. As you get to the lines said by a character, read the line to the child then ask them to say it in a different way – with more expression; the way the character is feeling (scared, happy, sad); the kind of voice the character might use (yelling, whispering, screaming); the pace of the reading (slow, fast, halting). Ask them to practice as many as four times until you are all satisfied.
- Ask them to use their bodies to go along with the way they are reading (face, legs, hands, arm actions).

- When you feel you are finished with the story or poem and have done your best, plan a performance for someone else in your home. Perform for someone far away via technology if you can do it.

## ***Tips for Parents/Leaders***

- If you have more than one child and they are in different grades – all the better! The older children can help you lead the reading.
- Poems are perfect as they often have refrains; you can read the main part and they can do the refrain.
- Remember to use lots of expression. This helps build confidence in reading and will help children want to read more. Your teachers will appreciate it too; this is one of the skills they are working on too.
- Children love to perform for others after they have practiced. You might even find a few props around the house that fit with the story or poem.

***Most of all laugh a lot, be silly and encourage them to have fun as well!***

