



Lawrence
School

How to Best Support Academic Growth at Home

The following evidence-based tips and resources offer students at-home practice in the area of intervention where they the most need support.

The best way parents can support growth at home in any area of reading—is to spend time reading!

READING

Listen & Look: We highly recommend using a digital reading tool such as [Learning Ally](#) with the screen reader turned on. The screen reader will highlight the words as it reads them. Listening to and looking at the text is proven to help both phonemic awareness and fluency. *Learning Ally* is a paid resource with more than 80,000 audio books. They are currently offering discounted family access. Reading with your child and pointing to each word as you read is an alternative.

Reading Comprehension: Ask your child what they read about! It's a great way to support comprehension. And, if you have time to read together—please do! This allows you the opportunity to identify any challenging vocabulary and to pause the book to check for comprehension. When asking students about a paragraph, page, or chapter they just read, use the words: “what do you picture?” This strategy, from the [Visualizing and Verbalizing](#) program, helps them to translate what they are reading into a ‘movie’ in their mind’s eye.

Fluency Practice: Reading a passage 3–4 times aloud is proven to support fluency over time and provides a structured way to practice reading. Teen-friendly websites, magazine articles, and poems are all great options for repeating reading.

[Tween Tribune](#) (middle school) or [Teen Tribune](#) (high school) are websites full of interesting articles. These resources allow you to change the [lexile level](#) of the text and provide the option to add comprehension questions at the end. Other options include: [Readworks](#) and [ReadTheory](#).

WRITING

Keyboarding: Typing is a life skill students can master through practice. Fluent typists get their ideas out quickly and generally produce stronger writing. [Typing Club](#) and [Typing.com](#) are simple and efficient programs for strengthening this ability.

Journaling: There is great power in journaling feelings, emotions, or simply an account of what happened throughout the day. At Lawrence, we use a process called [POWER UP](#) to take students through the writing process. We recommend working through *POWER UP* or a similar writing process while creating the digital journal.

Vocabulary and Grammar Practice: [Study Island](#) offers a number of practice questions in vocabulary and grammar. These two areas directly support overall writing skills. Usually a paid service, *Study Island* is currently offering a free one-year family membership.

MATH

Instructional Review: *Project Stair* is a great resource for instructional review of [integers](#), [fractions](#), [coordinate planes](#), and [equations](#). We recommend spending time reviewing some of these foundational concepts taught using methodology that aligns with a multi-sensory math approach.

Fluency Practice: [Hit the Button](#) is often used in our math classrooms as a warm-up. It is a great tool for 10–15 minute (or longer) practice sessions.

Interactive Simulations: [PhET Interactive Simulations](#), produced by the University of Colorado at Boulder, are both fun and educational. They are a great way to review concepts and applications of math through visual, real-life examples.

Applications Practice: Through [Khan Academy](#) or [Study Island](#), students can watch instructional videos and answer practice questions.