



***What's a typical day for me at Claypit? What do I love about my role?***

My name is Jen Socha. I am a Reading Specialist at Claypit Hill School, working with students and teachers in Kindergarten this year, as well as co-leading the new Language Based Program for grades 2, 3, and 4. I am in my seventeenth year of teaching. This is my sixth year teaching as a Reading Specialist at Claypit. I was a Special Education teacher at Happy Hollow for 5 years prior to joining the reading team at Claypit. During my time at Claypit, I have had the immense pleasure of teaching some of our youngest learners how to read. I love going into classrooms to work alongside our talented classroom teachers, and working with children in small groups to target their areas of need as well as help them to discover their areas of strength in reading! Being a part of a child's reading development is a truly magical experience!

***memorable moments this year?***

Being a part of our new Language Based Program has been amazing. We are meeting the needs of students with Language Based Learning differences and seeing them grow not only academically, but socially and emotionally. It has been a personal goal of mine to help Wayland create a Language Based Program since I started here, and it has been very rewarding to see it come to life this year with amazing staff, students and families on our team.

***What can parents and guardians do at home to help children achieve reading success?***

Whenever the grown-ups of my students ask me how they can help their child learn to read at home, my number one piece of advice is to read with your child everyday. This can be in the form of the adult reading to the child, the child reading to the adult, or both! You can also play word games that involve rhyming, isolating beginning, middle, or ending sounds or counting syllables. I also recommend that

parents take time to research and learn about the Science of Reading. There are many podcasts and books out there right now that share eye opening information on the science behind how children learn how to read.

***Fun facts about me:***

I have lived and taught in three different states: Massachusetts, Virginia, and California.

I currently live in Marlborough with my husband, three children (soon-to-be 5 year old twins Evelyne and Desmond and two-year-old Myles) and our dog Sampson.

It is my long-term dream to open a children's book store and tutoring center in Kennebunk Maine someday!