

Supporting your child with writing at home

Early writing activities

1. Encourage children to look for print in their environment -road signs, food packets, shops, catalogues etc.
2. Try activities to develop fine motor skills e.g. cutting, using playdough, using tweezers, using clothes pegs, tracing.
3. Use a chalkboard to write family messages on.
4. Make labels for things around the house.
5. Write a shopping list - real or imaginary! Or any other sort of list.
6. Letter formation - practise forming letters using paint, in sand, using playdough or pastry.
7. Let your child write their own Christmas cards or birthday cards to people.
8. Use magnetic letters - your child can leave a message on the fridge.
9. Encourage and praise early squiggles and marks which show your child is beginning to understand writing.

Improving Writers

1. Write party invitations.
2. Encourage children to write thank you letters
3. Write menu for a family meal or party.
4. Email a family member or friend.
5. Make a scrap book with labels and captions - maybe after a holiday or special event.
6. Write short stories involving the adventures of their favourite toys.
7. Write an information leaflet about something they find interesting eg. dinosaurs, sports etc.
8. Write a letter to a favourite author.
9. Invent and write rules for the house, bedroom etc. and put on a poster
10. Draw, label and explain their own inventions. Make up silly sentences and tongue twisters.

More confident writers

1. Write a secret diary.
2. Make up song lyrics.
3. Plan their own party.
4. Write a story for a younger family member, in the style of their favourite book.
5. Write instructions for an X-box game, Minecraft or similar.
6. Write a recipe.
7. Talk to different generations of family about their life and compile a family history.
8. Make up jokes.

Materials

It's also an incentive to write if there is a range of exciting writing materials available - pencils, crayons, felt tips, sparkly pens , writing icings, writing soaps for bathtime, coloured papers, different shape and sizes of paper etc.

Try to remember to focus on and praise the content of any writing your child shares with you, rather than dwelling on any mistakes they may have made.

Hopefully the variety of activities listed here have provided you with plenty of ideas to help and encourage your child to have a go at doing some writing at home.