

Home Writing Activities

Early writing activities



- Look for writing with them in their environment – road signs, food packets, shops are all full of print
- Try activities to develop fine motor skills e.g. cutting, using playdough, using tweezers, using clothes pegs, tracing.
- Use a chalkboard to write family messages on
- Make labels for things around the house
- Write a shopping list – real or imaginary!
- Practise forming letters using paint, sand, playdough or even pastry
- Let your child write their own Christmas cards or birthday cards to people
- Use magnetic letters – your child can leave a message on the fridge

Encourage and praise early squiggles and marks which show your child is beginning to understand writing.

Improving Writers

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

More confident writers

- Write a secret diary
- Make up song lyrics
- Plan their own party
- Write a story for a younger family member, in the style of their favourite book
- Write a holiday journal
- Write instructions for an X-box game, Minecraft or similar
- Write a recipe
- Produce their own comic
- Channel their passions – RSPCA, WWF, ActionAid etc. all have ideas for getting children involved in raising awareness of campaigns
- Write to the local newspaper about a local issue they feel strongly about or even to the local MP
- Talk to different generations of family about their life and compile a family history
- Make up jokes
- Look out for writing competitions e.g. Radio 2's annual 500 Word Competition. (A prize is always an incentive to write!)

A range of exciting writing materials – pencils, crayons, felt tips, sparkly pens, writing icings, coloured papers – can make writing even more exciting for your child.

By focusing on the content of any writing your child shares with you and using lots of praise, your child will become more confident at mastering this tricky skill!