

Helping Children Learn to Write



To write, children are required to use both mental and physical skills. A child must consider how to hold a pencil, write letters legibly, use punctuation, spell correctly, and organize thoughts. Parents play an important role in encouraging and motivating their children to continually improve their writing skills. Helping your child improve her writing skills at an early age helps build her confidence and enjoyment of writing.

Reading is one of the best ways to improve your child's writing. Reading books, expands a child's vocabulary and widens his knowledge of the written word. In addition to having your child read novels, encourage him to read magazines, poetry, newspapers, short stories and plays.

Simply Write

- Exchange Post-it notes with your child. Put the notes on pillowcases or mirrors, or in lunch boxes, books, or any surprise location.
- Ask your child to put their wishes and wants into writing, then suggest how they may work towards or contribute to getting what they want.
- Help your child create a family newsletter or blog to share with family members near and far.
- Suggest that your child write postcards to send to themselves when they are away on a trip. When they receive their own postcards in the mail, they will have a souvenir!
- Make writing practical and useful by having your child write grocery and task lists, reminders and phone messages, instructions for caring for pets, or directions for getting to the park.
- Display children's writing in a special place—the refrigerator, a bedroom door, on a cork board, or taped to a tile in the bathroom. This tells children that their writing is important and worthy of being shown.
- Invite your child to dictate stories to you or take turns writing a story together. Write down exactly what your child says, and read it aloud afterward.
- Create greeting cards for special occasions. Provide paper and crayons or markers so children can make cards and then “sign” their names when finished.
- Ask the writer to underline words he/she thinks are misspelled. Help the writer correct the words.
- Read their writing out loud and pause where punctuation should be. Ask for the writer to check for end marks as you read. Encourage the writer to find errors by giving clues. Ex. I see a missing capital...

Encourage all of your child's writing efforts!