

Parent Information

How can you support writing at home?

Provide a place for your child to write

The area should be an area that is quiet and well lit. Stock the “writing centre” with supplies such as paper, pencils and crayons. You can also gather family photos and magazines in the centre that can be used as story starters.

Read, read, read!

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be a better writer. Reading exposes children to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, children see a variety of authors’ techniques that they can use in their own writing. ‘Good readers make good writers’

Encourage your child to keep a reflective or free writing journal

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the “senses” of writing. Have your child write about what they saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your local area that will interest your child and spark their writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments. When reading your child’s journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas paired with positive feedback about your child’s writing.



Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child

Have your child write their own thank-you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Pretend you have forgotten what you want from the shop. Let your child make the grocery list. Finding a pen pal for your child would make writing “real.” Helping children make the connection between writing and the “real” world will increase an interest in writing.

Be a writing role model

Make sure your child sees you as a writer and a reader. Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspaper, on billboards or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose of the writing and the target audience. When your child writes, you should write. You can schedule a day of the week that you will turn off the television and share your writing. First News is an excellent resource for discussion and writing

Start a vocabulary notebook

Teach your child the subject specific vocabulary each week and encourage the use of these words. Make it into a game and give points for using the new words. Your child can keep a vocabulary notebook and get rewarded for the number of new words learned. The words will begin to appear like magic in their spoken language and writing.



Ask questions

Always ask your child questions when they write. Ask specific questions about your child’s writing such as: “How did that happen?” “How did that make you feel?” “Can you tell me more about that...?” “What are some other words you could use to describe...?”

Help your child publish their writing

Share their writing with others, place it on the refrigerator or encourage them to write for kids’ magazines. When your child’s writing is published in a children’s book, they will be on their way to becoming a lifelong writer an