

ABC

Helping children learn to write!



Enjoying the journey...

Time together

Ideas for writing come when we spend time together exploring, talking, drawing, watching, reading and playing together. Let children guide what you're going to write about.

Planning

See talking and drawing as planning and encourage taking things from reading, video games, play, film or television programs your children like.

Shared writing

See yourself as a fellow writer, take part in planning, offer ideas and support. Talk together to develop ideas.

Where to start...

Writing is a complex process which brings together a wide range of different skills such as long-term memory, working memory, hand eye co-ordination, motor skill attention and language. With that in mind it is often difficult to know where to start!

We hope this guide will help you support your children learning to write at home.

What to write...

Riddles, rhymes, songs, jokes, poems, signs, labels, lists, charts, booklets, games, recipes, instructions, how to guides, everything I know about... letters, anecdotes, vignettes, true stories, invented stories, comics, fairy tales, myths, experiments, letters, scripts and plays.





Stages of Writing

Each child is at a different stage of writing and needs different support. Confident writers may just need support sharing and developing ideas, and refining their skills. Early writers need help building muscle strength needed for holding a pencil. Whatever stage of writing your child is, opportunities to write and encouragement is the best place to start.

Early stages of writing

- Give opportunities to develop your child's fine motor control. Such as threading beads, construction toys, jigsaws, play dough, buttons, zips etc.
- Drawing- making marks using pencils
- Support your child holding the pencil correctly.
- Support your children with the correct letter formation. We follow 'Read, Write Inc' which has a rhyme associates with each formation.

Writing in Sentences

- Start with simple sentences to build confidence.
- Talk each sentence before writing it, allowing your child to compose ideas orally.
- Count the number of words on your fingers and check by reading the sentence when completed.
- Praise efforts and encourage editing, first verbally sharing ideas for improved content or vocabulary.

Spelling

- Encourage children to use their knowledge of phonics to spell words they don't know.

Developing Content

- Read together, explore vocabulary and writing styles that you might experiment with.
- Use a range of vocabulary in everyday conversation
- Help children check their writing is 'reader ready'. Does it make sense? is it exciting? What will the reader feel when reading it?

Handwriting

- Encourage your children to write neatly on the line. With ascenders touching the top line and descenders trailing below the line.

"Remember you only learn to be a better writer by actually writing!" Doris Letting