

Top Tips for Helping with Writing

Spend quality time each day talking with your child. Being able to talk about ideas is a fundamental skill for writing.



Read to your child - not just stories but a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, and discuss the ways that authors use words to shape their ideas.



Be a writing model. Let your child see you writing in everyday situations, and encourage your child to write alongside you.

Create real opportunities for writing. Encourage your child to write, postcards, birthday cards, letters, invitations and shopping lists.

Provide a place. It's important for a child to have a good place to write, a desk or a table with a smooth, flat surface and plenty of light

Provide the materials. Have an interesting range of writing materials available, plenty of paper of different kinds, and things to write with including pencils, pens and crayons.



Allow time. Help your child spend time planning and thinking about their writing. Good writers do a lot of thinking!



Talk to your child about their writing and read it through together. Don't dwell on any mistakes, focus on the content. Explain that you are interested in the ideas they are trying to express, this means focusing on 'what' the child has written, not 'how' it was written.

PRAISE your child for trying. Take a positive approach and say something good about your child's writing.

Above all, HAVE FUN! Writing can be difficult, so be available, supply help if asked and marvel at how well your child is doing.

