



Clayton Village Primary School

How to help your child with...



Writing in Key Stages 1 & 2

Introduction

Writing is more than merely putting words on paper. It is the final stage in a complex process of communicating that begins with 'thinking'. Writing is an especially important part of communication. It will help your child do well in school, enjoy self-expression, become more self-reliant and access adult life.

Writing is one of the most important skills your child can learn – just as important as reading. You can build writing into your child's day with these practical tips and suggestions that show how writing can be useful and fun. Keep it easy and enjoyable.

Speaking and listening activities and thoughtful discussion will provide the stimulus for and enhance children's writing.

Your child needs to come up with their own ideas, not copy your writing.

Setting the Scene

- Provide a good place to write, a desk or table with a smooth flat surface and good light.
- Provide plenty of paper, lined and unlined and things to write with including pencils and pens.
- Reading can stimulate a child to write. It usually follows that if a child reads and enjoys books he/she will be a better writer.
- Keep a diary or large A3 scrapbook in which writing plays a large part. Useful to take and complete on holiday.

Develop speaking and listening through role play and drama, have a dressing up box, play corner and story seat. Writing activities should be encouraged from these.

Key Stage 1 (Y1 & 2)

- Use opportunities within your child's experience e.g. shopping lists, birthday cards, postcards, letters, sentences to go with pictures they have drawn.
- Encourage neat, legible handwriting using the school script.
- Encourage your child to use the school method of 'Think it', 'Say it', 'Write it', 'Check it'.
- Put high frequency words into sentences.
- Write sentences using 'time words' e.g. first, next, later, after that, eventually, after a while.
- Encourage your child to use describing words (adjectives) e.g. the glittering snow, the fierce tiger.
- Write a recount of a visit or story they have read, or hobbies.



- Write a description of a character from a story.
- Find an interesting picture and make up a story.
- Write instructions on how to play a game remembering to begin with a verb. E.g. put, throw, move.
- Put spellings into a sentence and write it.
- Use correct punctuation e.g. capital letters, full stops, exclamation and question marks, speech marks.
- Use level 1 and 2 connectives and sentence openers (see attached sheet).

Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3 & 4)

- Use level 3 and 4 connectives and openers to add extra detail to sentences (see attached sheet). E.g. I went to the shop. I went to the shop even though it was raining.



- Write a range of sentences including questions, statements, lists, speech and punctuation correctly (see attached sheet).
- Begin to use paragraphs.
- Ensure writing is legible and joined up.
- Use more ambitious describing words (adjectives) and powerful

verbs e.g. darted rather than ran.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5 & 6)

- Be aware of the features of non-fiction texts e.g. explanation, instructions, recount, reports (see attached sheet).
- Be aware of the purpose of the writing e.g. diary, persuasive, informative, complaint, and the intended audience e.g. friend, company (formal / informal).
- Use a range of punctuation correctly including full stops, commas, exclamation marks, question marks, colons (:), semi-colons (;), dash, bracket, elipse (.....) (see attached sheet).
- Extend sentence length through descriptive phrases (the snow white fur of the polar bear) and use adverbs e.g. Noisily, the children dashed to the playground.
- Writing to be organised into paragraphs with an appropriate opening and ending.
- Use Level 4 and 5 connectives and openers (see attached sheet).

