

Helping Your Child To Write

Book 2

Experimenting With Writing



A Guide For Parents

Simonstone St. Peter's C.E. Primary School

Dear Parents,

I hope that by now your child is enjoying making marks on paper in his/her attempt to convey meaning, and has the confidence to have a go. Don't forget to praise his/her efforts and try to refrain from helping every step of the way. Let him/her experiment him/herself. You can assist him/her best by talking and providing some stimulus, giving encouragement, valuing his/her work, providing a reason and an 'audience'.

Focus on the message rather than the correct mechanics of writing.

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqueline Booth



Look For Writing Opportunities

- *Encourage your child to write cards, letters, invitations etc.*
- *Make a recipe book together with your child helping to write instructions.*
- *Have a notice board at home and encourage all members of the family to leave messages on it.*
- *Have a writing conversation with your child leaving notes and letters for each other.*
- *Develop the habit of acknowledging ownership by encouraging your child to write his/her name on all pieces of writing.*





Continue To Develop An Interest In Books

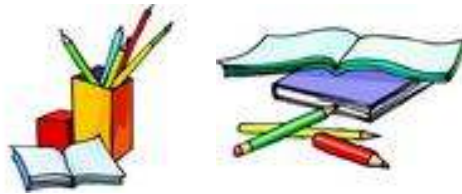
- *Read to and with your child discussing various aspects of the story and the characters.*
- *Build up a collection of favourite books and read them often.*
- *Go regularly to the library with your child.*
- *Make personalised books with your child using photos or his/her own drawings. You could share the caption writing.*
- *Make an alphabet book together. As your child expresses an interest in particular words, help him/her to these on the appropriate page and thus produce his own word book.*

Encourage Constructive Talking

- *Find opportunities to discuss things with your child and encourage him/her to express his/her own opinion. Use ideas stimulated by family outings, special events, news stories, TV programmes or books.*
- *Try and encourage your child to organise their thoughts verbally by clarifying their thinking. This will help written efforts at another stage.*
- *Talk about the sequence of events during the day, or from a story. Again this will help to clarify thought.*

Restock Your Child's Writing Area

- *Continue to provide plenty of writing materials readily available for your child to use, ideally at his/her own desk or table.*
- *Put out selections of pens, pencils, crayons and felt tips with a variety of paper, envelopes, notebooks, blank forms etc.*
- *Display your child's efforts and give plenty of encouragement at 'have-a-go' writing.*
- *Do not give spellings of words but encourage your child to think of the letter sounds and try him/herself. Perhaps the word is already in his/her personal word book.*
- *Resist providing 'copy my writing' activities as much as possible. Encourage independent efforts.*



Getting Word Wise

- *Look for words in the environment and see they convey meaning.*
- *Use the TV guides to check programme times with your child.*
- *Work hard together to read and spell those little awkward common words like 'are', 'said', 'the', 'was' etc. It may just take practice, but help your child along.*
- *Use a computer or typewriter to give opportunities for your child to print his/her name, or maybe a note to a friend or a simple poster.*
- *Cut up a sentence into separate words and recognise them. Tell your child about words and sentences and look for them in his/her reading.*
- *Play simple word games e.g. a homemade version of Lotto, or find the pairs etc.*
- *Use plastic letters to make words.*
- *Try a simple word search or crossword puzzle.*

