

Helping Your Child To Write

Book 3

Early Writing



A Parents Guide



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

Dear Parents,

Hopefully your child is developing plenty of writing confidence and his/her efforts are becoming more easily recognisable!

Remember to give plenty of praise and encouragement and consider how difficult the writing process is. At this stage a child finds it hard to deal with content, sentence, construction, spelling, punctuation and presentation all at the same time. So maybe work on one aspect at a time!

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqueline Booth.





Keep Talking

- Remember how important it is for a child to clarify his/her thoughts aloud before writing them down.
- Answer as fully as possible your child's questions, and encourage him/her to speak clearly in reply to yours.
- Discuss favourite stories, and consider the characters. Talk about illustrations, and predict what might happen next.
- Develop projects started at school or in the media and talk about these together.

Keep Reading

- Read to your child every day and include other forms of print such as newspaper articles, poems and factual books.
- Encourage your child to try and sort out unfamiliar words whilst he/she reads to you. Use sounding out, context or word shape to guess a new word, and help your child become more independent. Praise his/her efforts.
- Involve your child in purposeful reading activities such as directions, instructions and recipes.



The Writing Environment

- Continue providing new materials for your child's writing corner: - notebooks, old diaries, writing paper and envelopes, pens, pencils, felt tips and paper in various colours, shapes and sizes.
- Make sure your child has access to a simple picture dictionary and continues to use his/her own personal word book.
- Display your child's writing efforts and demonstrate that you value and enjoy his/her writing.
- Show him/her when and where you use writing at home and at work.



Writing Opportunities

- Have fun writing messages to each other. Try writing reminders, riddles and secret messages.
- Look for purposeful writing activities at home. Encourage your child to write messages, letters, and cards or keep a family diary for everyone to record events.
- Write a story together to read to a younger family member or friend.
- Use a computer to produce his/her own party invitations or greetings cards containing a personal message.



Talking About Writing

- Talk with your child about a special piece of writing before a start is made. Plan what he/she wants to say, a sentence at a time.
- Let your child write as quickly as possible whilst the content is still in his/her mind.
- Show your child how to read through his/her work and edit where necessary. Ask him/her

Is the writing clear?

Does it make sense?

Is the spelling checked?

Is the punctuation correct?

Words, Words, Words

- Spellings may have to be learned, but show your child how to do this. Ask the school about the 'look, cover, write, check' method.
- Play games with words:- make up rhyming strings; put new rhymes to favourite songs; try adding a variety of describing words to an object; look for words within words.
- Look in magazines and puzzle books for simple word games, word searches and crosswords.
- Play word games together e.g. Junior Scrabble, Hangman etc.