



How to help and encourage children to write at home



Set up your child with a place to write with writing equipment.

It's a great idea to provide a comfortable place where children can write. Kids love to experiment so provide them with a variety of writing materials and implements. Supply colourful crayons, markers and beginner pencils that are easy to hold for emerging writers.

Excite older children with different kinds of papers, diaries, pencils, pacers, markers and pens. Just like a book nook, this needs to be a space that inspires children and that they enjoy using.



Explain that writing has a purpose.

It's important that children understand that there are many purposes to writing. Some of the reasons we write are to inform, persuade, entertain or explain. Writing is also a great way to express feelings.



Introduce your child to the joy of keeping a journal or diary.

Show your child that their point of view matters and how powerful the written word can be with a journal or diary. Self-expression is an important part of learning to write and is also a great way to get emotions out for children and help their mental health.

A writing journal is a brilliant way to get into a daily writing routine without worrying too much about writing perfectly.

You can also encourage your child to keep track of the books they've read with a reading journal. Ask them to write a simple sentence or two on what they liked about the book, who their favourite character was and how they would rate the book overall. This will not only help with keeping track of all the books they've read but also develop their writing and comprehension skills.



Model writing to children

Seeing adults write is a great way to show children where writing fits in to daily life and it offers a chance to explain why we write and in what context. Help your child see how necessary writing is and how enjoyable it can be to write.

Show them how often you write during your day for all kinds of reasons; Children can then get involved in practical writing activities at home, such as contributing to the family calendar, diary, noticeboard, or messages on the fridge.

Use opportunities where your child can contribute, such as letting them write their name on a birthday or thank you card, rather than writing it for them.

Plan a fun, purposeful writing activity where they won't even realise they're practising their writing skills! For example, get your child to trace or write the labels for household items or write a shopping list.



Writing with younger children.

If your child is new to writing, start with beginner skills like pencil grip practice and tracing the letters of the alphabet. Show your child how to hold a pencil correctly with three fingers. This will give them more control when they write.

Once your child has mastered tracing, move on to freehand writing of letters. Using shaving cream or writing in sand is a fun, tactile way for kids to practise this skill.



Read!

Reading helps with writing, and vice versa. Read together every day when your child is younger to strengthen their writing skills. Just by reading a bedtime story, they'll be working on everything from their vocabulary, spelling to comprehension. Allow children to lead with their interest in books.

Discuss what you're reading with your child and ask them about the books they read, too. Ask more complex questions depending on your child's age. Make sure they're understanding the text.

Get your child to read their writing to you, or you can read it out loud to them. Don't forget to praise them for their efforts! Point out when they've used great adjectives, spelled a difficult word correctly or tried to write neatly.



Speak with your child's teacher.

If you are still struggling for ideas or need help with a specific area of writing, speak with your child's teacher.

They will be more than happy to help!

Thanks for your continued support.

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