

Activities to Encourage Writing at Home

* Talk to your child.

Talk about what they are interested in.
Talk about your day.
Talk about what matters to them.

* Ask questions.

What was fun today?
Who did you play with?
What surprised you today?
What was interesting?
What do you think tomorrow will bring?

* Work on projects together.

Find out information from the computer.
Fill out order forms.
Work through directions to assemble something.
Sort the mail. Sort the laundry.
Put the groceries away.

* Share different kinds of writing.

Help children find the different kinds of writing around the house:

- menus
- directions/manuals
- lists
- letters
- message boards/signs
- text on the computer

* Write cards and letters.

Help your child write cards and letters:

- invitations
- thank-yous
- requests for information
- complaints
- get-well cards
- birthday greetings

* Play word games.

In the car, play games with signs and license plates.
Play word and letter puzzles found in the newspaper.
Enjoy riddle and joke books together.
Play Scrabble, Boggle, and other board games.

* Read with your child.

Read anything—any time:

- newspapers
- magazines
- flyers
- letters
- cereal boxes
- labels
- books!

* Draw and paint.

Make decorations for the house.
Draw pictures to mail to friends and relatives.
Draw while listening to a story.
Draw signs to remember to:

- turn off the lights
- recycle
- turn on the dishwasher
- fold the clothes and put them away

* Go to the library and bookstore.

Enjoy story time at the library and check out books.
Find a new section of the library and browse.
Visit a bookstore and hear an author read a book.
Look for a favorite author's books on the bookstore shelves.

* Listen to music.

Share many kinds of music and ask children:

What does this make you feel?

What kind of music do you like best?

Is there a kind of music or radio station everyone in the family will enjoy?

Sing out loud with your child.

* Get dramatic.

Encourage your child to:

- make up plays
- act out their feelings
- pretend to be an animal
- make up what a character would sound like from a favorite book
- role-play solutions to problems