



Partners in Learning

Writing is an important skill with real-world value, as well as a way to share our thoughts, ideas and emotions. Helping children to see the importance of writing and to gain skills in expressing themselves clearly in written form allows them to exercise their creativity and succeed academically.



The Role of Writing in Daily Life

Shopping lists, to-do lists and reminders, and schedules are all examples of practical, daily writing. Involve your child in completing these tasks.

Encourage him or her to use writing in a purposeful way by writing letters or emails to friends and family. Independent writers could keep a journal or write diary entries, write about travel experiences, or document their progress on a special project or the accomplishments of their favourite team. Older children may enjoy sharing their writing digitally by writing a blog or contributing to an online book review site.

The Power of Story

Model writing for pleasure and fun. If your child sees you writing, he or she will recognize it as a worthwhile activity. Sharing memories about your life and your family is a good way to encourage your child to tell stories.

Young children may tell stories by drawing, which is a form of early writing. Your child may want you to write the words to a story that he or she tells. You may notice him or her beginning to include squiggly lines or random letters to represent the text of his or her story. As a shared writing activity, you could use a camera to document a trip or special outing, and help your child turn it into a book by writing captions for the pictures.



As children get older, they could be encouraged to retell a favourite story in their own words. They could also create and write their own stories or write a new ending for a book they like. Discussions about favourite authors or the qualities of books that have captured your child's interest are great motivators for writing.

While correct spelling and punctuation are important in clearly expressing ideas, it is not always necessary for children to correct all their errors. Whether or not you encourage your child to edit his or her work may depend on the purpose and audience for the writing. While it may be important to fix spelling errors in a letter, the story your child is writing for enjoyment could be left unedited. Too much focus on writing correctly can inhibit a child's expression of ideas.

As with all activities, practice leads to growth. The more your child writes, the more capable a writer he or she will become. Writing for practical purposes, to communicate ideas, or as a creative activity will help your child develop skills in and appreciation for writing.