



# WRITING



*If you can think it, you can say it, you can write it, you can read it. (Carmel Cravola)*

## What is Writing?

Writing is a form of communication. When you write, you are speaking to an audience. Learning to write is a developmental process that each child experiences at a different pace.



## How does a child become a writer?

Experience! Writing starts with looking around our world and thinking about what we see, hear, smell, touch and taste. Children need to learn how to think about what they experience. Talk, talk, and talk some more! When your child talks about a variety of subjects, ideas or experiences, they build their oral language and their vocabulary which will help them with their writing.

### You can help!

- Take them on walks to explore their local environment
- Visit places such as museums and zoos
- Talk about their interests and their feelings



## Success Criteria: Checklist for Beginning Writers

- I started all my sentences with a capital letter.
- I have used spaces between each new word.
- I used punctuation marks correctly and in the correct places.
- I sounded out all the sounds I heard in each word.
- I added details and descriptive words.
- I re-read my sentences and they make sense.
- I tried my best!

## Make Writing Fun!

- Have a place in your home to display your child's writing.
- Let them use fun writing tools such as coloured pens or pencils, glitter pens, etc.
- Use paint brushes with water and "write" words on sidewalks, driveways or wooden fences.



## Building Early Writing Skills: 6 Ways to Help your Child

1. Praise your child as he or she writes using pictures, scribbles, letters or words.

2. Help your child say words slowly and write down the sounds he or she hears.

3. Have your child dictate what he or she wants to say and show your child how to slowly say the words, listening for each sound as you write them.

4. Write your child's message in a light-colored pencil or marker (yellow is great!) and have them trace the letters in a darker color.

5. Make a line for each word or sound your child wants to write, and then have your child write letters to represent the sounds of the words. (It's ok if he or she only hears and write a sound or two at first.)

6. Practice writing familiar items names, such as around the house, names in your family, favorite hobbies, etc.

## Writing Opportunities are Everywhere!

### Some Ideas for Motivating your child to write at home:

- Make a book! Fold 8.5 x 11 paper in half to make a book to write a story that they can read to their family or friends when they visit.
- Make shopping lists, wish lists, grocery lists, lists of things they want to do or places they would like to visit.
- Use a computer to "type" out a letter or make sentences.
- Write an "old fashioned" letter or card to family/friends then mail then go to the post office to mail it.
- Keep a journal to write about different experiences or what they did on the weekend, on vacation, at school, etc.
- Play word games! Hangman, Boggle, Scrabble, etc.

