



A monthly publication provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education.

Resources for Families

Helping your child learn to write

Families have a big impact on their children's ability to read and write. Reading and writing skills are closely related. As a parent you can help by being involved and active in your child's learning. Here are some things to do with your child at home.

- Create an environment that nurtures the sharing of language and experiences. Talk about the things you do together. Read to - and with - your children frequently.
- Label items that belong to your children, for example "Jill's Toy Box" "Ben's Cars."
- Let your children see you writing notes and letters so that they associate writing with real-life. Let children see you revising your writing so they learn that revision is a good thing.
- Read and accept with enthusiasm what your children write. Avoid being critical. Provide help with spelling, punctuation, and usage.
- Find a quiet, suitable, well-lit place for children to write. Keep a dictionary, pencils, pens, paper and envelopes handy.
- Encourage developing writers to write frequently. Supply real audiences by asking children to contribute to family communications such as letters, captions for pictures and albums, grocery lists, notes to baby-sitters and siblings.
- Encourage children to write for information, samples and free brochures. Read aloud some of their writing.
- Praise children's efforts at writing. Encourage initiative and respect uniqueness. Don't compare children's writings to those of siblings or friends.
- Display children's writings in a special place. Explain that publication is a part of writing and that families enjoy what has been shared.
- Look over the writings children bring home from school. Keep the writings in a folder so that they can see progress.
- Find out about the writing and spelling programs in school. Ask what you can do at home to complement work in school.
- Volunteer to work in classrooms. High quality writing programs include individualized assistance that can often be provided by adult helpers under teacher direction.
- Encourage contact with the writing of skilled authors. Writing is learned, in part, by reading. Good literature programs foster effective writing.
- Look for and respond to good student writing that is published in school and local newspapers, magazines and journals. Encourage participation in recognition for writing contests and awards.
- Encourage students to solve problems in any area by "writing through" the steps. Writing the directions for solving a math word problem is one example.
- Stress getting ideas down on paper before thinking about usage or editing.