



Milltimber School



Top Tips for Supporting Your Child with Writing

Advice for Parents and Carers



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Things to Do at Home

Below is a list of suggestions you can choose from to help and support your child in the development of their writing skills. Every child is different and progresses at different rates, however all children will certainly progress with your support and encouragement.

- Spend quality time each day talking with your child. Go places and see things with your child, then talk about what has been seen, heard, smelled, tasted and touched. Good talk is the basis for good writing and younger children grow into more confident users of language when sharing experiences with an interested adult.
- Read to your child. Read wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, not just stories. Discuss the ways that authors use words to shape their ideas.
- Be a writing role model. Let your child see you writing in everyday situations, and encourage your child to write alongside you. Write notes to friends, letters to business firms, perhaps stories to share with your child.
- Create real writing opportunities for your child. Encourage him/her to write postcards, birthday cards, letters and invitations and shopping lists. Also suggest writing for information, free samples and travel brochures, etc.
- Share letters, emails and texts from friends and relatives. Treat such letters as special events. Ask friends and relatives to write short notes and letters to your child. Writing is especially rewarding when the child gets a response. If writing thank you letters space the work and be supportive as this can be quite a chore for a many children.
- Help your child spend time planning and thinking about their writing. Good writers do a lot of thinking! Talk through their ideas with them; help them discover what they want to say.
- Be prepared to help with spelling, punctuation or how to use a word or phrase, if asked. Your most effective role is as a helper. Be excited by ideas and effort.
- Talk to your child about their writing and read it through together. Don't dwell on mistakes, focus on the content. Explain that you are interested in the ideas they are trying to express, this means focusing on 'what' the child has written, not 'how' it was written.
- Praise your child for trying. Take a positive approach and say something good about your child's writing. Emphasise the successes.

Helpful Materials

- Provide a suitable place for your child to write. A desk or a table with a smooth, flat surface, a comfortable chair and plenty of light are important. If possible a quiet corner, the child's own place would be ideal.
- Provide the materials needed to write. Children often enjoy receiving gifts of the following
 - Pens of different kinds
 - Pencils of appropriate size and hardness
 - Rubbers
 - A desk lamp
 - Pads of paper, stationery, envelopes, even stamps
 - A booklet for a diary or journal
 - A dictionary appropriate to the child's age and needs.
 - A thesaurus for older children



Encourage your child to write, but be patient with reluctance to write. There will be times when your child will be desperate to write and others when your child is not interested.

**Above all, HAVE FUN!
Writing can be difficult, so be available, supply
help if asked and marvel at how well your child is
doing!**

