



TOP TIPS FOR WRITING

Here are 10 tips to help your child with writing - including ways to encourage your child to write, playing games and exploring the meaning of words.

Encourage your child to write

- Reading and writing are linked - success in one helps the other. Children love to make their own birthday cards, write thank you notes, make place cards for the table, or send an email to a friend. Save old cards from birthdays and holidays to recycle for homemade cards.

Writing can be done anywhere

- Have lots of magnetic letters or words on the fridge. Get a box of chalk and write your names on the pavement. Get a white board - it can be used again and again.

Play writing games

- Make a game of letter finding. Show them how to form a letter and then go letter hunting in your house or in a book - count the number of 'Ds' on a page. Find a picture they like and have them write words or a sentence about it.

Help children build their vocabulary

- Try rhyming games starting with one word such as 'mat'. Say and write down all the words that rhyme, like 'cat', 'hat', 'fat' and 'splat'. You'll be surprised how fast their word list grows.

Explore the meaning of words

- Create a word book at home and have your child add words as they learn them. Have them note the words they use the most and talk about why.

Read and write

- Read stories, newspapers, advertisements, instructions to your child every day and then discuss what you have read. Why not write notes to your child and leave them in interesting places, like the lunchbox. Ask them to write a reply or come up with something new.

Don't limit what you write with or what you write on

- Make writing fun - sand, compost or soil, snow and steamed up windows can all be written on.

Writing comes in all shapes and sizes

- Point out different ways that writing has a purpose - letters, signs, advertisements, instructions - and explain why they are different.

Start writing at an early age

- Children often learn to write before they can read so whenever possible, let your child see you writing - grocery lists, emails etc.. Encourage this by showing them how to print their name or the names of friends and other family members. Buy them notebooks with lines so they can learn to make their letters correctly or a practice book with letters they can trace. Encourage them to use a capital letter only at the beginning of a name, place or at the beginning of a sentence.