

Writing Activities and Ideas for Use at Home

- Make a blank journal or book. Use it for a school memory book, a scrapbook, a travel log, a diary, a collection of favorite writings, an autograph book, a sketch or doodle book, an address book, a dictionary of words or pictures, a joke, riddle, or poetry book, or a book log.
- Allow your child to write on a variety of materials, such as placemats, plastic tablecloths, tee shirts, napkins and paper towels, sidewalks with chalk or water, decks with water, rocks with paint, mirrors or tubs with soap paint or shaving cream, whiteboards, or transparencies.
- Write stories patterned off of favorite books. Change the words, but keep the pattern.
- Write an experience story after going somewhere or doing something special. Let your child talk about the experience and then write down his/her ideas. Encourage your child to read it back to you. Have your child illustrate, dramatize, or publish the story.
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes after receiving gifts. These may start off as pictures and scribbles, and later include words, sentences, and paragraphs.
- Ask your child to write lists, such as grocery lists, desired gifts, party guests, favorite animals, etc.
- Have your child make and send birthday and holiday cards and invitations.
- Start a family newsletter. Let every family member write a part of the newsletter.
- Write notes to your child. Ask him/her to write back to you. Keep a special notebook for this.
- Mark special dates on the calendar. Give your child his/her own calendar for the same purpose.
- Make a book of favorite recipes. Try them out with your child.
- Allow your child to answer the telephone and take messages in writing.
- Have your child role play occupations that involve writing. Some of these may include doctors, teachers, store clerks, receptionists, scientists, waitresses/waiters, and secretaries.
- Provide a typewriter or keyboard on which your child can experiment with writing.
- Have your child write food orders for family meals or get-togethers.
- Encourage your child to write away for information, free samples, and travel brochures.
- Read the comic strips with your child. Encourage your child to make his/her own cartoons.
- Have your child write captions or speech bubbles for photographs, pictures, or cartoons.
- Have your child keep a reading log of all books read by or to him/her.
- Write directions or draw maps to favorite places.