



## Tips for Helping your Child

- 1 Start by decorating a journal with pictures, photographs, magazine pictures, or words cut from magazines and newspapers.
- 2 Set up a regular journal writing time. Pick a schedule that is realistic, but regular. It could be daily at 4pm, or every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. It is great if an adult is around but not directly observing the writing.
- 3 Journal writing is made easier with suggested topics. Always remember that the primary goal is getting a child to write. Help your child write by offering prompts and let him/her write freely. Try to avoid over-correcting his or her writing.
- 4 Children may need to be challenged to write a minimum number of lines. Pick an amount that is appropriate, perhaps 6 lines for beginners. Increase the required amount as the writer's abilities improve.
- 5 Always have the child re-read his/her entry. Making a checklist is helpful.
  - \* Does every sentence begin with a capital letter?
  - \* Does every sentence end with a period or some form of punctuation?
  - \* Does the entry make sense?

## Journaling Prompts for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd Graders

1. I am very proud because...
2. If I were President I would...
3. Why is the President so important?
4. I am afraid to \_\_\_\_\_ because...
5. Name one thing you do really well and describe it in detail.
6. What is your favorite room in your home and why?
7. Describe what it means to be a good neighbor?
8. What is your favorite time of day and why?
9. Describe your best day ever? Give lots of details explaining why.
10. How do you deal with people who bug you?
11. What excites you and why?
12. Describe your favorite hobby.
13. What is your favorite quote by a famous person? Why?
14. What is your favorite song and why?
15. Climbing trees is...
16. I wish trees could \_\_\_\_\_ because....
17. I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_ when I grow up. Then I will....
18. I wish there were a law that said \_\_\_\_\_ because...
19. I wish I could forget the time I \_\_\_\_\_ because....
20. I wish I could \_\_\_\_\_ because.....
21. Older people are...
22. Younger people are...
23. The perfect place in the whole wide world is...
24. What makes you feel sad and why?
25. What can you do to help you feel better when you're feeling blue?
26. Name your favorite book and why?
27. Walking in the rain is...
28. I am proud of myself because \_\_\_\_\_
29. What I know about rabbits is that...
30. If I were an Easter egg...
31. For lunch today...
32. If I were a raindrop I'd....
33. If I were a turtle, I'd...
34. If I were a \_\_\_\_\_, I'd...
35. Pretend that you can fly whenever you wanted. Where would you go?

36. Pretend that there is no such thing as television. What do you do with all of your time?
37. My favorite stuffed animal or toy is...
38. Imagine if cows gave green pop instead of milk! What would the world look like?
39. Imagine that all the streets are rivers? How do you get around?
40. What would happen if it really did rain cats and dogs?
41. Use descriptive words like amazing, incredible, outrageous, super-fun or mind-blowing while writing about your favorite activity of all time.
42. If I could choose a different name, I would choose \_\_\_\_\_ because...
43. Let's go \_\_\_\_\_. Describe your adventure.
44. Write a letter to your Mom, Dad, friend, cousin, classmate about your top three talents.
45. What would happen if animals could talk? What questions would you would like to ask them? Imagine that you can become invisible whenever you wanted to? What are some of the things you would do?
46. What would you do if you were in the middle of the lake and your boat springs a leak?
47. What would you do if you were the last person on earth?
48. What would you do if you could fly?
49. What would you do if you suddenly woke up in another country and no one could understand a word you said!
50. Write a poem about your favorite person, animal, or place.
51. What is your dream vacation? Why?
52. Write a story from the perspective of a rabbit going down a hole. What does the rabbit experience, see and feel?
53. What would you eat if you were on a deserted island? How would you catch your food?
54. How does it feel to be a snowflake?
55. Imagine you are a mountain and you are sitting and watching the world. What have you seen in your lifetime?
56. What dangers would you face if you were a chipmunk? How would you overcome them?