

How to Improve your Child's Writing (KS1)



Writing is a life skill and is the foundation for future learning, not just in literacy but in other areas such as topic and science.

Elements of Writing

Writing involves developing skills in several areas.

- **Spelling**
- **Handwriting**
- **Composition**
- **Punctuation**

Spelling:

Phonics (the learning of the 'sound' of letters and letter combinations) is the basics of spelling. Recognising, using and blending sounds and learning sight words is vital to children's rapid spelling skills. Next comes learning spelling 'rules' (e.g. 'i before e except after c').

By the end of Key stage 1:

By the end of key stage 1 a child should correctly spell:

- most high frequency words (bear words).
- use alternative spellings for phonemes (e.g. ay, ai, a_e).
- spell 2 and 3 syllable words.

How can I help my child with spelling?

Support your child by discussing their high frequency words (bear words) as well as helping them to learn the words. What sounds are in the words, use little rhymes to help them remember tricky words (e.g **Sally And Izzy Dance** for the word said). Help your child to find the high frequency words in their reading book and whenever you share a book together.

Handwriting:

How letters and words are formed on the page.

How can I help my child with handwriting?

Prompt and encourage him/her to hold their pencil correctly and to sit at a table holding the page with their other hand so that they are correctly positioned to write. When they are writing, prompt and encourage them to form their letters correctly. There is a letter formation sheet on the website which will show you where to start letters and where to finish. It is important to form letters correctly so that writing can be easily joined up in KS2.

Composition:

Thinking of what to write; organising our thoughts and getting ideas down on paper. Achieving a desired effect, e.g. to instruct, persuade, inform, entertain, etc..

By the end of Key stage 1:

By the end of key stage 1 a child should:

- show a basic purpose for writing.
- begin to use some of the main features of a text genre.

How can I help my child with composition?

Think about situations at home that require something to be written:

Shopping lists

Invitations

Thank You Cards / Letters

Letters to relations /pen-friends

These are a few ideas that you could use to support your child in writing at home.

Before starting to write, encourage your child to think about what they are going to write about. Encourage them to say the sentences aloud and check that they makes sense before recording them.

Punctuation:

Used to help make the meaning of written sentences clear and as the writer intended them to be read. This is often one of the key areas which prevent children from achieving higher National Curriculum Levels.

By the end of Key stage 1:

By the end of key stage 1 a child should:

- use a capital letter and full stop correctly in sentences.
- Begin to use question marks, exclamation marks and commas in lists.

How can I help my child with punctuation?

Whilst completing their homework or any writing at home ask them to read their work to check whether they have used punctuation in every sentence.

What should I expect to see in my child's writing by the end of key stage 1?

- Varying sentence openers (e.g. not always starting a sentence with a name or pronoun).
- Use of full stops in most sentences, and begin to use speech marks, exclamation marks, question marks and commas in lists.
- Some sequencing of ideas with a clear opening and ending
- Some description of people and places with the use of adjective.
- A basic purpose to the writing showing some awareness of the reader
- Begin to choose and use interesting vocabulary
- Correct spelling of high frequency words, two and three syllable words and words containing alternative vowel phonemes.
- Handwriting shows correctly formed letters where upper and lower case letters are not mixed within words.