

*Helping Your Child To  
Write*

*Book 1*

*Starting To Write*





# *A Guide For Parents*

## *Simonstone St. Peter's C.E. Primary School*

*Dear Parents,*

*Here is the first booklet about helping your child with writing. I hope you will find it useful.*

*One of the most important factors in children learning to write is the model you provide for them:  
- writing lists, letters, forms, greeting cards etc.  
Share this writing with your child so they can begin to understand why as well as how we write.*

*Children learn to write by being actively involved, and I hope that the following suggestions will prove useful and enjoyable for you and your child.*

*Yours Sincerely  
Jacqueline Booth*





## Looking For Print

*Point out print in the environment: - shop signs, food labels, etc.*

*Put labels up at home:-*

*toys*

*books*

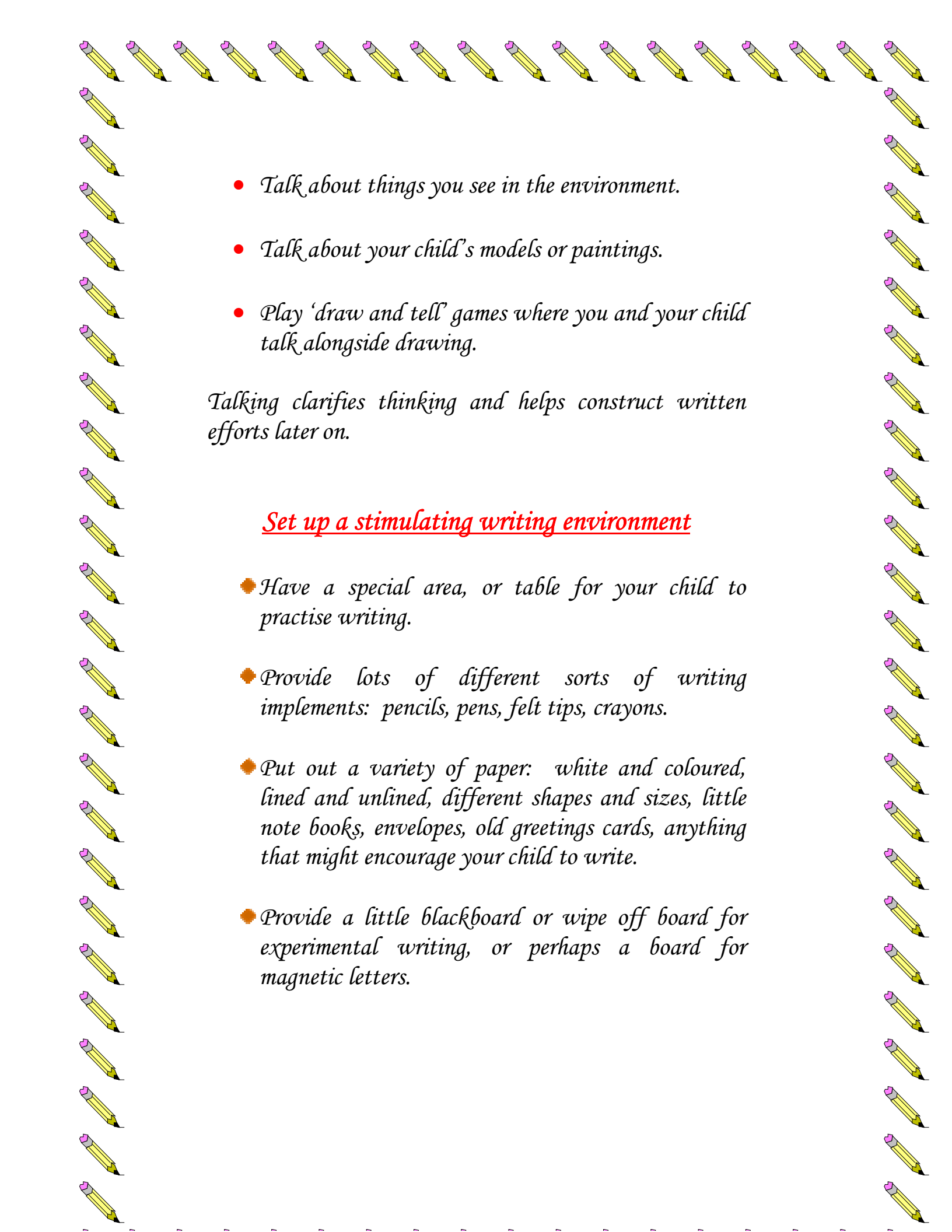
*socks*

*T-shirts*

*Look at books together and enjoy a regular bedtime story.  
Share nursery rhymes and listen for rhymes and repetition.*

## Talking

- *Encourage your child to talk about books and stories.  
“What do you think is happening in this picture?”  
“Why do you like this part best?”*
- *Talk about the events of the day.*

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- *Talk about things you see in the environment.*
  - *Talk about your child's models or paintings.*
  - *Play 'draw and tell' games where you and your child talk alongside drawing.*

*Talking clarifies thinking and helps construct written efforts later on.*

### *Set up a stimulating writing environment*

- *Have a special area, or table for your child to practise writing.*
- *Provide lots of different sorts of writing implements: pencils, pens, felt tips, crayons.*
- *Put out a variety of paper: white and coloured, lined and unlined, different shapes and sizes, little note books, envelopes, old greetings cards, anything that might encourage your child to write.*
- *Provide a little blackboard or wipe off board for experimental writing, or perhaps a board for magnetic letters.*

### Encourage early attempts

*Value your child's early efforts and display them in a prominent place. Help him/her to see that his/her writing is about conveying meaning and can be fun.*

*Respond positively to "have-a-go" writing and do not worry too much about correct spelling and letter formation at this stage.*



### All join in

- ◆ *Get all your family involved by writing little messages to your child.*
- ◆ *Have a family message board where everyone writes down what they will be doing during the day.*
- ◆ *Make books together with your child. Use family photographs, greetings cards, postcards or your*

*child's own drawings and decide on captions for these.*



### *What's in a name?*

*Your child's name will be a natural starting point for writing activities, because it has a personal meaning for him/her.*

- ◆ *Find opportunities to display his/her name.*
- ◆ *Practise the letters together.*
- ◆ *Look for these special letters in other places.*
- ◆ *Encourage your child to write his/her name on all pictures or stories. It will signify his/her ownership of that piece of work; - an important message in the years to come!*