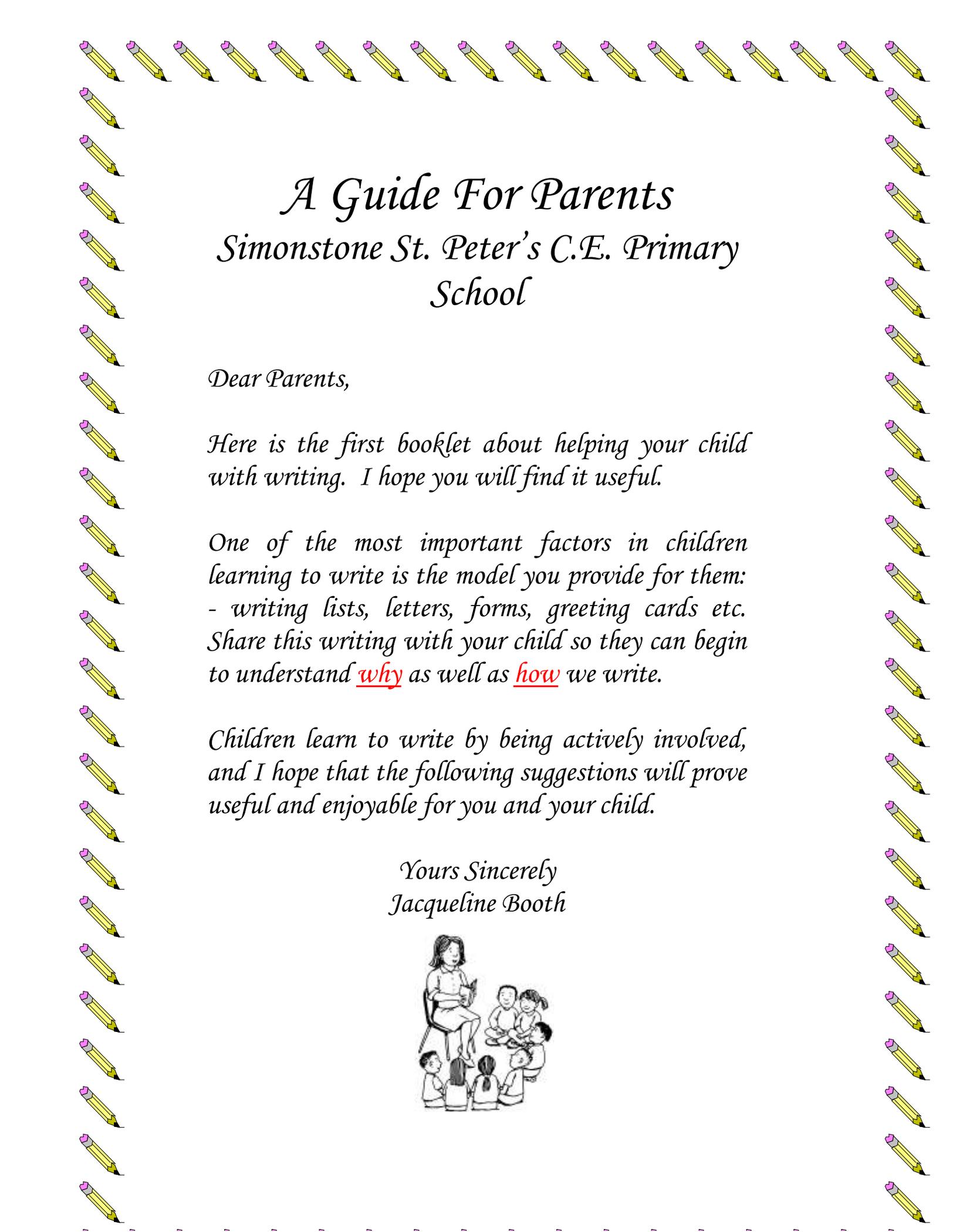


*Helping Your Child To
Write*

Book 1

Starting To Write





A Guide For Parents

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

Dear Parents,

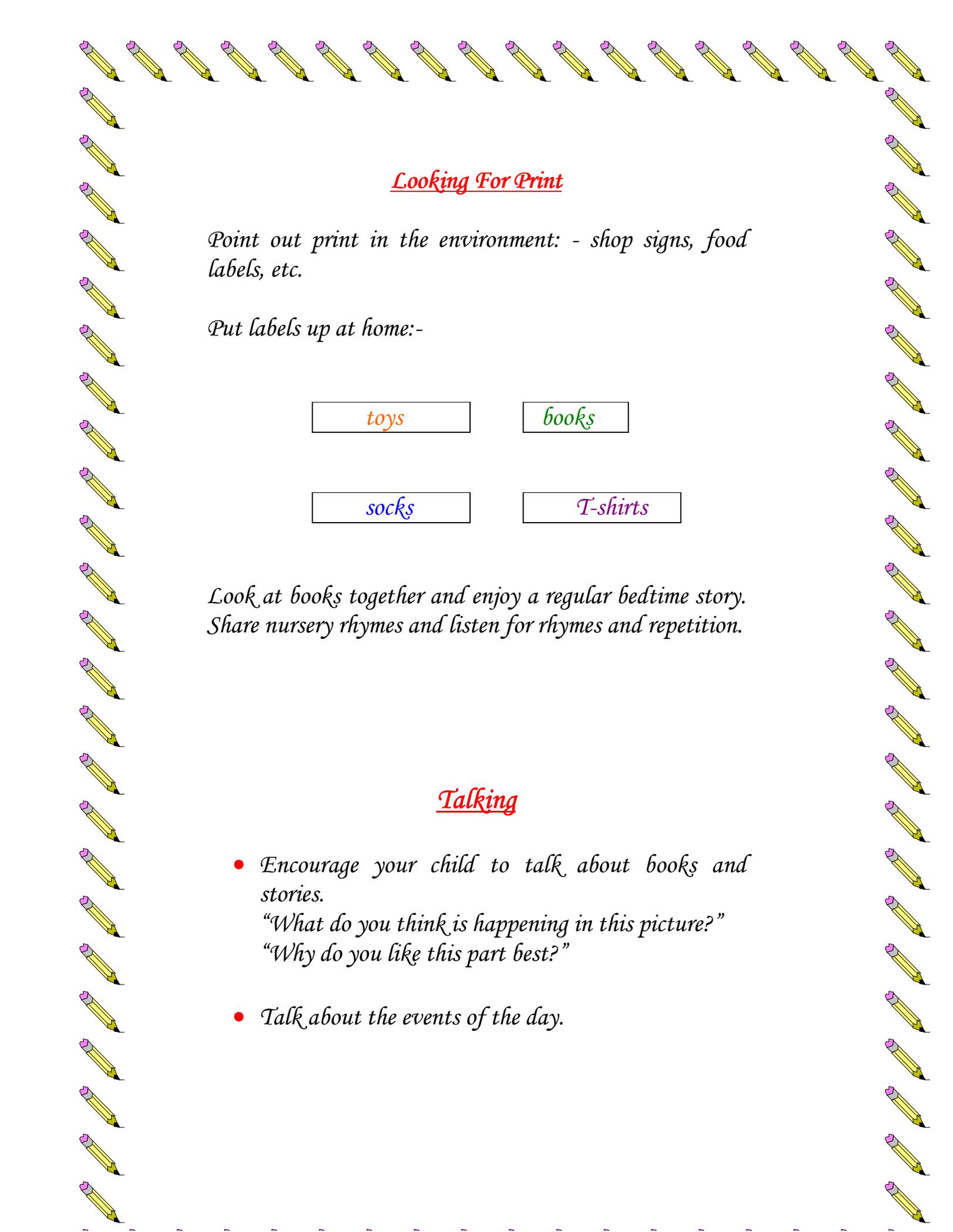
Here is the first booklet about helping your child with writing. I hope you will find it useful.

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!*