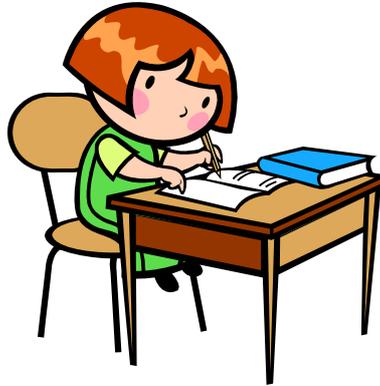


Helping your KS1 child with Writing at home



*Whilst children do lots of Literacy based activities at school (eg. writing, reading, handwriting, phonics), there are also lots of ways that you can support your child at home. It doesn't have to be by doing pages of lines, text books or sentences - there are lots of ways to make writing fun and meaningful!
Here are a few ideas to help you...*

The basis of good writing is good talk.

When you visit places, encourage your child to talk about what has been seen, heard, smelled, tasted, touched.

Encourage children to share their experiences in as much detail as possible!



Let children see you being a model writer!

Let children see you writing notes, cards or letters to friends or relatives, a shopping list, an article for a magazine or maybe a story or poem for them to enjoy.

Let your children see that you are not perfect! Making changes and editing what you write is a natural part of writing.

Let your child write their own Christmas cards, thank you letters, cards or e-mails to friends or relatives, invitations to a party, or a list of things they need to take on holiday.



Play word-building games like Boggle or Scrabble.

Games like 'Guess Who' can also develop their descriptive vocabulary.

Create silly sentences or tongue twisters using alliteration (a group of words that all begin with the same sound)

Eg. Silly Sarah slipped on Sam's salmon sandwiches

Monty Mouse marched merrily to the magic mountain.

Different types and colours of paper, different pens and pencils, envelopes, stampers and various other stationery can all be motivating when your children is writing.

Maybe you could even create a special writing corner or area.



Cut up letters from a newspaper or magazine. *Can they use the letters to write their name? Can they use a different font for every letter in their name? Can they write a sentence?*

Encourage your child to rehearse their sentence out loud before they write it down.

Always encourage children to punctuate their sentences with a full-stop and capital letter.

Handwriting does not have to be boring! Let children practise drawing letters in sand, water or paint, or use white boards or blackboards. Pattern books can be fun to do and allow children to practise mark-making. Children can also make letters using playdough, pastry or shaving foam.



Let children write a small part of your shopping list. Let them be responsible for carrying their list and finding those items when you go to the supermarket.



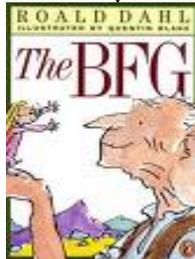
Practise the 100 Key Words by making 'Flash cards'.

How many words can you read in a minute?

How many words can you spell in a minute?

Make up fun ways to remember how to spell a word eg. **B**ig **E**lephants **C**an **A**lways **U**nderstand **S**mall **E**lephants = because.

Help your child write a letter to your child's favourite author. Correspondence can often be sent to an author's publisher (whose details can be obtained on the Web) who will pass it on.



Play 'I Spy' - It's a good way of showing that every word begins with a letter.

'Hangman' is another game that children enjoy playing and encourages use of sounds and spellings.



When you go on holiday, encourage children to write postcards to friends or relatives.

They could record things that you do in a holiday diary which they can share with friends or relatives when they get home.



Use magnetic letters on the fridge to spell out a message.

Encourage your child to write their name, spell words and organise the letters into alphabetical order.

After making a cake or doing a craft activity, challenge children to write the recipe or the instructions for someone else to use.



Praise your child's efforts at writing - it's not an easy thing to do! Focus on a word they spelt correctly, neat handwriting, a good describing word or good use of punctuation. Remember, it is difficult to get everything right when you are learning!

Be aware of occasions when children can be involved in writing; shopping lists, thank you cards, Christmas or birthday cards, taking down phone messages, writing notes to friends, holiday lists, invitations to family occasions.

Write an information page or booklet about something they find interesting eg. spiders, Dr Who, dinosaurs, cats, etc.

Draw a picture and label it.



Share letters and cards from friends and treat their arrival as special events. Show children that you value something that has been written especially for you.

Remember that writing does not have to be lengthy or boring!

Writing for *real purposes* is more meaningful and rewarding for children and creates a fun and interesting way for children to develop their writing skills.

Useful websites:

www.educationcity.com

www.bbc.co.uk