



## **Message in a Bottle**

Making a message in a bottle is a fun and meaningful way to get your child excited about writing!

### **What You Need**

Bottle (for instance, a small soda bottle, spice jar or clear plastic container)  
Paper (cut to fit inside the bottle)  
Pencil, Crayon or marker  
Tape, string or ribbon

### **Directions**

#### **1) Prepare the Bottle**

Wash the bottle or container with warm, soapy water and remove the label. Let it dry completely, for at least an hour.

#### **2) Message**

Cut a piece of paper to fit inside the bottle. Then let your child create their message.

#### **For Kindergarteners**

- Ask them to draw a picture, and then write a few words underneath to explain their drawing
- Encourage your child to use beginning and ending sound when writing words.

#### **First & Second Graders**

- They can write a message to a family member or friend. If your child is hesitant about writing, have them share what they want to write out loud and you can write the message for them.
- They could write about a favorite toy, animal, or activity they love to do

#### **3) Putting Message in Bottle**

Roll up the paper as tightly as possible and secure with a small piece of tape. Wrap a colorful string or ribbon around it for decoration. Place the message inside the bottle and close tightly.

### **Extension Ideas**

#### **1. Add Art**

Decorate the outside of the bottle with stickers, shells or glitter glue

#### **2. Create a Message Series**

Have your child make a new message each week! Encourage them to write down one fun activity or special moment from the week. They can keep the message in a jar or box instead of a bottle and share with a family member or friend at the end of the month.