



Taking Photos Writing Prompt

Taking photos can become an exciting storytelling adventure! This activity helps your child notice details and use their imagination to create captions or stories inspired by their own photographs

What You'll Need

Phone or camera

Paper and pencil or a notebook

Colored pencils or markers (optional)

Stapler (if making a book)

Here's How

1. Go for a Walk

Take a short walk around your neighborhood or nearby park. Bring your phone or a camera and let your child take pictures of things that catch their attention.

2. Choose a Photo

Have your child look through the photos and decide if they want to:

- Make a book about all the photos
- Select a few favorites
- Choose just one photo

3. Print Your Selected Photo(s)

4. Brainstorm what to Write

Help your child think aloud about what to write.

If Writing Captions

Choose one or two questions to guide their thinking. You can even use a question as a sentence starter. For example, "I found this photo interesting because..."

Questions to Consider:

- Why did you select this photo?
- What is happening in the photo?
- Who or what is in the photo?
- What do you find interesting about the photo?
- What's in the background?

5. Write the Captions

Writing is a complex task for young learners. It asks them to think of an idea, hold it in their memory and use their knowledge of letter/sound correspondence to put their thoughts on paper. The goal of this activity is to make writing fun, meaningful and imaginative, not stressful.

If your child doesn't want to write, let them tell you what they want to say and you be the writer.

For Kindergarteners

Kindergarteners are still learning letter/sound correspondence, so writing is especially challenging. If they want to write, help them by asking for the beginning and ending sounds of a word.

For First Graders

Encourage your child to do some of the writing using the skills they are learning in school. If at any point they become overwhelmed, switch roles and to you can write while they share ideas.

For Second Graders

Your child can take a more active role in writing. Encourage them to use their skills to sound unfamiliar words. Don't worry about perfect spelling. If they can read it back, it's successful! If they find writing challenging, feel free to let them dictate what they want to write.

6. Add a Title Page

Encourage your child to make a title page. Possible titles could be "Photos from My Neighborhood" or "What Caught My Eye."

7. Read

Children love reading what they've written. Depending on your child's reading level, you can read it aloud or take turns.

8. Save and Share

Keep the finished writing in a safe place so your child can read it again. Encourage them to share their work with family or close friends. They will also love seeing the photos your child took and reading what they've written!

Extension Activity

Writing a Story

If your child is ready for an extra challenge, turn one of their photos into a story!

Have your child choose one photo and work together to imagine what could be happening in the picture. Talk through ideas before writing. Remind your child that every story has a beginning, middle and end.

Questions to consider before writing the story are:

- Who are the main characters?
- Where does the story take place?
- What change or surprise happens to the main character?
- How does the story end?

For this activity, it's recommended that you be the writer. Story writing is complex and requires your child to organize many ideas at once. By writing down what your child says, you allow them to focus on the story without the challenge of getting the words on the page. When you are finished, read the story back to your child so they can hear their words come to life.