

At-Home Activities to Encourage Writing

Talk to your child.

- Talk about what he or she is interested in.
- Talk about his or her day—and your day.
- Talk about what matters to him or her.

Ask questions.

- What was fun today?
- Who did you play with?
- What surprised you today?
- What was interesting?
- What do you think tomorrow will bring?

Work on projects together.

- Go online to find information.
- Fill out order forms.
- Make meals by following recipes.
- Sort and discuss the mail.
- Read and discuss labels while putting away groceries.

Share different kinds of writing.

Help children find and read forms of everyday text around your home:

- menus
- directions/manuals
- lists
- letters
- flyers
- messages
- websites

Write cards and letters together.

- invitations
- thank-you notes
- requests for information
- complaints
- get-well cards
- birthday greetings

Play word games.

- In the car, play games with signs and license plates.
- Do word and letter puzzles from the newspaper.
- Enjoy riddle and joke books together.
- Play Scrabble®, Boggle®, and other word games.

Read with your child.

Read anything—anytime:

- newspapers
- magazines
- flyers
- letters
- cereal boxes
- labels
- books!

Draw and paint.

- Make decorations for the house.
- Paint pictures to mail to friends and relatives.
- Draw while listening to a story.
- Create signs as reminders to recycle, turn on the dishwasher, turn off the lights, feed the pets, water the plants, and fold the clothes and put them away.

Go to the library and bookstore.

- Enjoy story time at the library and check out books.
- Find a new section of the library and browse.
- Attend an author reading at a bookstore.
- Look for a favorite author's books on the bookstore shelves.

Listen to music.

Share many kinds of music and ask your child:

- What does this make you feel?
- What kinds of music do you like best?
- Is there a kind of music or radio station everyone in the family will enjoy?
- Sing out loud with your child.

Get dramatic.

Encourage your child to

- make up plays.
- act out their feelings.
- pretend to be an animal.
- create dialogue and voices for characters from favorite books.
- role-play solutions to problems.