

At-Home Writing Activities

1. Turn your home into a print-rich environment by allowing your child easy access to magazines, books, maps, manuals, e-mail, cookbooks, menus, television guides, newspapers, directions, and other reading materials.
2. Encourage your child to help write grocery lists, to-do lists, notes, directions, and phone messages.
3. Have your child start a writer's notebook to record observations, quotes, favorite words, unfamiliar words to learn, and interesting ideas to write about.
4. Encourage your child to keep a daily journal to record thoughts, feelings, and experiences. The journal doesn't have to be fancy. A simple notebook works just as well as a traditional journal.
5. Provide interesting writing materials such as gel pens, felt-tip pens, calligraphy pens, colored pencils, sticky notes, small note pads, fancy stationery, homemade paper, and colored paper.
6. Encourage written personal correspondence (thank you notes, friendly letters, invitations) as well as business correspondence (requests, inquiries, complaints) in both handwritten and word-processed formats.
7. Create a scrapbook of a vacation, holiday, family outing, school trip, or school year. Have your child write an introduction, headings, picture captions, and closing thought.
8. Help your child form a pen-pal relationship with a relative or friend. Be sure to provide different media to share, such as stationery, postcards, greeting cards, and colorful paper.
9. Play word games with your child, such as completing an analogy, writing a tongue twister, or making up rhymes and riddles. Play commercial word games such as Scrabble®, Boggle®, and crossword puzzles, too.