

Supporting Writing at Home-KSI

Talk!

The basis of good writing is being able to talk about things in detail. When you visit places, encourage your child to talk about what they have seen. Encourage your children to share their experiences in as much detail as possible, for example, by using adjectives to describe. When writing a sentence, encourage your child to rehearse their sentence out loud before they write it down.

Be a model writer

Let your children see you writing, not just typing. For example, you could write notes, cards or letters to friends or relatives, write 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.

Write for a purpose

Encourage your child to 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. They could write a small part of your shopping list and you could then let them be responsible for carrying their list and finding those items when you go to the supermarket. 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.

Use a multi-sensory approach

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 allow children to practise mark-making. Children can also make letters using playdough, pastry or shaving foam.

Play games

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. Games like 'I Spy' are a good way of showing which letter or sound words begin with. 'Hangman' is another game that children enjoying playing and encourages the use of sounds and spellings. You can also make up fun ways to remember how to spell a word eg. Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants = because.

Use a variety of writing resources

Ensure that you have different types of paper and a range of colours in the house. Encourage your child to use different pens and pencils, envelopes, stampers and various other types of stationery, as these can all be motivating when your child is developing a love of writing. You could 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?

Celebrate writing

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