

What should I do if my child does not want to write?



Most children enjoy writing if they can see the point of it. Tap in to the things that you know they enjoy and which motivate them.

- ♦ If they love dinosaurs, help them to write a dinosaur joke to try out on their friends.
- ♦ If they like being outdoors, get them to write messages in mud or sand using a stick.
- ♦ If their tooth has fallen out, get them to write a message in glitter pen to the tooth fairy.

Write little notes /silly rhymes or jokes for your child and leave them under their pillow or on the fridge. Get other family members such as grandparents to do the same so your child can experience the pleasure of receiving a personal message.

Whichever method you choose, it will encourage your child to want to do the same in return and start writing!



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Empowering schools to remove barriers to learning for pupils with specific learning difficulties

Helping your child with early writing

Why do some children find writing difficult?

Children need to be able to write to:

- ♦ access and record their learning in school
- ♦ do their job when they are grown up
- ♦ communicate with others both formally and informally
- ♦ record information just for themselves.

But writing is a complex skill. To be able to write well, you have to be able to:

- ♦ control a pencil
- ♦ be able to spell
- ♦ have ideas and be able to order them
- ♦ use clear language and punctuation
- ♦ adapt your writing to your task.

What should I do first to help my child with writing?



- ♦ Good writing starts with good talking. Good writers have a good vocabulary and lots of ideas because they have listened to others talking. Talk to your child as much as you possibly can. Share stories, silly rhymes, jokes, TV shows etc then talk about them.
- ♦ Good writing also starts with good posture and muscle control in your upper body, arms, hands and fingers. Take your child swimming, play ball games, teach them to do handstands, to jump and hop. Get them to peg out socks on the line, cut up food with a knife and fork, help mix a cake or plant seeds.
- ♦ Be a good role model for your child. Let them see you writing for lots of different purposes e.g. a shopping list, an email, postcard.

What equipment do we need?

Sharp pencils, coloured pencils, felt tips, highlighters, scraps of paper, magnetic letters for the fridge, post-it notes, envelopes, paints, coloured paper, cards, glitter, glue, rubber, etc.

What do we do next?

- ♦ Find a quiet space with a flat surface
- ♦ Make sure there is a purpose to the writing e.g. writing a guest list
- ♦ Talk through what they want to write Encourage them and praise their ideas.
- ♦ **Praise their efforts.** Choose no more than 3 spelling and punctuation errors to work on.
- ♦ **You want this to be a positive experience so they will want to write again soon!**

