

Help Your Child with Writing

Real-World Writing

Writing shopping lists, cards or letters to friends and family are all great reasons for writing in real life. It also shows children that there is a purpose to writing.



Diary Writing

At year 1 age, it is often wise to keep writing activities short yet frequent. Children could write in a diary or keep a daily schedule, where they jot down their favourite part of the day before they go to bed.

Games

You can turn spelling lists or homework lists into games; try playing word games or make crosswords or word searches with them.



Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination will develop through lots of activities, such as those that involve pinching, grasping, twisting, threading, weaving and manipulating small items with tweezers.

Different Media

Provide different media for children to write and make marks with, such as paint and paintbrushes, chunky markers on large paper, chalk on the pavement or patio, dry wipe pens on the mirror or encourage children to use their fingers in shaving foam or custard.

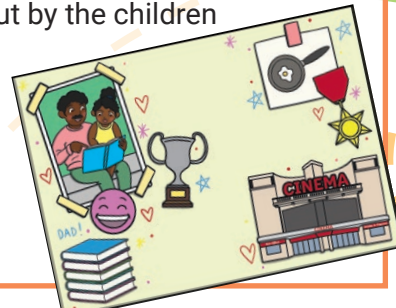
You could also encourage children to explore making marks on a computer or tablet device.



Scrapbook Writing

Children choosing what to write about in a scrapbook (for example, about one of their favourite hobbies) can lead to children enjoying their writing more. If children get pleasure from writing in this way then hopefully, this can be transferred to writing in school.

A scrapbook can also include pictures that have been cut out by the children using scissors. Scissor skills help to develop the fine motor skills used in writing.



Encourage Reading

Good readers are often good writers and spellers. Seeing words in print helps children to understand the words, improves spelling and helps them to see how grammar and punctuation are used.



Read to Your Child

Reading to your child helps them to expand their vocabulary and boosts their understanding of language, which can help with writing as well as with reading. You could try occasionally asking questions, such as, 'I wonder why the author has chosen to describe the unicorn as graceful?'

Strengthen Fingers

Modelling dough is a great finger-strengthening activity. Try adding cutters and tools, theme it with a story or practise moulding letters or phonics sounds. Modelling dough helps to develop children's fine motor control, which contributes to neater, clearer handwriting.

Twinkl is not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment. Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks before an activity and only proceed if it is safe to do so. If you are unsure, always speak to a suitably qualified health professional.