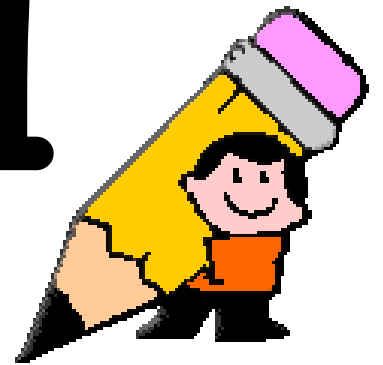


Helping your child at home



Year 1



Writing

These are some of the things your child should be able to do by the end of

Year 1:

- ✓ Spell words containing the 40+ sounds that have already been taught (phonics).
- ✓ Spell common exception words.
- ✓ Name the letters of the alphabet in order
- ✓ Use letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound.
- ✓ Use suffixes; -ing, -ed, -s, -es, -er, -est, where no change is needed in the spelling of the root word.
- ✓ Spell the days of the week.
- ✓ Begin to spell words in their contracted form (don't, can't, wouldn't etc)
- ✓ Use the prefix "un"
- ✓ Sit correctly at a table and hold a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- ✓ Begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- ✓ Form capital letters and digits 0-9.
- ✓ Say out loud what they are going to write about. Then, say the sentence out loud before writing it.
- ✓ Discuss what they have written with the teacher or their peers.
- ✓ Use simple word choices to convey information and ideas (eg. story or topic related vocab)
- ✓ Reread what they have written to check that it makes sense.
- ✓ Use simple prepositions (eg- under, over, behind, in front of...)
- ✓ Be aware that ideas can be organised into a sequence.
- ✓ Sequence sentences to form short narratives.
- ✓ Begin to organise ideas using simple time related words (eg, first, next, then).
- ✓ Write a simple sentence starting with a personal pronoun (I, you, he, she, it)
- ✓ Write a simple sentence starting with a noun/ proper noun.
- ✓ Write reliably formed simple and compound sentences.
- ✓ Leave spaces between words.
- ✓ Use capital letters for names, the letter I, days of the week and the beginning of sentences.
- ✓ Punctuate sentences using a capital letter, full stop, question mark and exclamation mark.
- ✓ Join words using "and".
- ✓ Join clauses using "and".
- ✓ Use simple noun phrases (adjective + noun).

Whilst children do lots of Literacy based activities at school (such as writing, reading, handwriting, phonics and spelling), there are also lots of ways that you can support child at home. It doesn't have to be by doing pages of lines, text books or sentences - there are lots of ways to make writing fun and meaningful!

Here are some ideas to help you...



Talk!

The basis of good writing stems from high quality talk. When you visit places, encourage your child to talk about what they have seen, heard, tasted, touched and smelled. Encourage children to share their experiences in as much detail as possible!

Let your child see you being a model writer!

Let children see you writing notes, cards or letters to friends or family; a shopping list; an article for a magazine or maybe a story or poem for them to enjoy. Let the children see that you are not perfect! Making changes and editing what you write is a natural part of writing.



Give children the opportunity to write their own Christmas cards, thank you letters, cards or emails to friends and relatives, invitations to parties, or a list of things to take on holiday.

Play!

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)

For example: *Silly Sarah slipped on Sam's salmon sandwiches! Monty Mouse marched merrily to the magic mountain.*

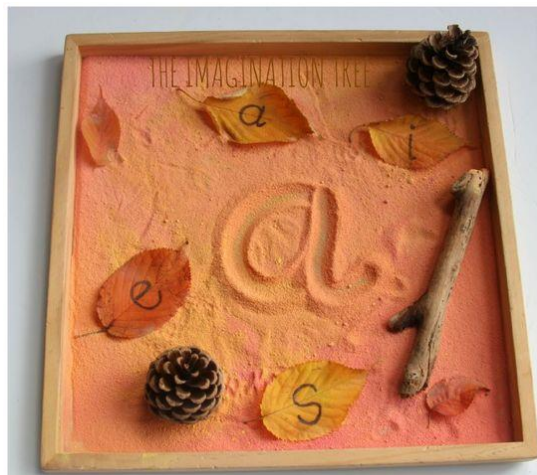


Different types and colours of paper, different pens and pencils, envelopes, stampers and other fun stationery can all be very motivating when your child is writing. Maybe you could even create a special writing corner or area!



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?

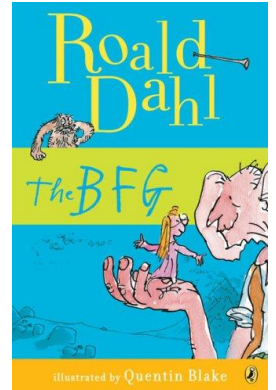
Handwriting does not have to be boring! Let children practise drawing letters in sand, water or paint, or use white boards or blackboards. Pattern books can be fun to do and allow children to practise mark-making. Children can also make letters using playdough, pastry or shaving foam.





Let children write a small part of your shopping list. 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.



After making a cake or doing a craft activity, challenge children to write the recipe or the instructions for someone else to use.

Make up fun ways to remember how to spell difficult words e.g. Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants = because; What has a HAT; When has a HEN.

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

