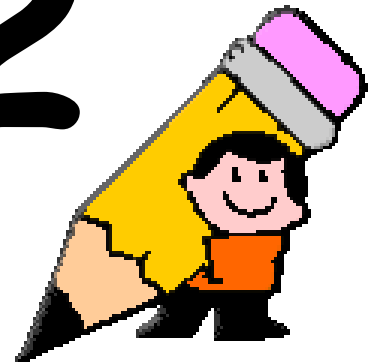


Helping your child at home



Year 2



Writing

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

Year 2:

- ✓ Spell words by segmenting spoken words into phonemes, spelling most words correctly.
- ✓ Spell common homophones
- ✓ Spell common exception words
- ✓ Add suffixes to spell longer words, -ly, -ment, -ness, -ful, -less.
- ✓ Use the possessive apostrophe.
- ✓ Spell more words in their contracted forms (don't, can't, wouldn't, shouldn't)
- ✓ Form lower case letters of the correct size, relative to one another.
- ✓ Write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters.
- ✓ Join letters using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes. Understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined.
- ✓ Consider what they are going to write before writing by planning or saying the sentence aloud.
- ✓ Write down ideas and key words (including new vocabulary) in a plan.
- ✓ Make simple additions, revisions and corrections to their own writing following evaluation with the teacher or other pupils. Proof read to check for errors.
- ✓ Use adventurous vocabulary appropriate to the task.
- ✓ Use a range of prepositions (behind, before, above, along).
- ✓ Consider what they are going to write before beginning by encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence.
- ✓ Use brief opening and ending.
- ✓ Appropriately sequence ideas.
- ✓ Write questions (beginning with who, what, when, where, how etc)
- ✓ Write statements.
- ✓ Write exclamatory sentences (What an exciting day we've had! How scary he looks!)
- ✓ Write commands using the imperative form of a verb.
- ✓ Use capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks to demarcate sentences.
- ✓ Use coordinating conjunctions (and/or/but).
- ✓ Write expanded noun phrases to describe and specify.
- ✓ Use the past and present tense correctly and consistently.
- ✓ Use subordinating conjunctions (when/if/that/because)
- ✓ Use commas to separate items in a list.

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.*

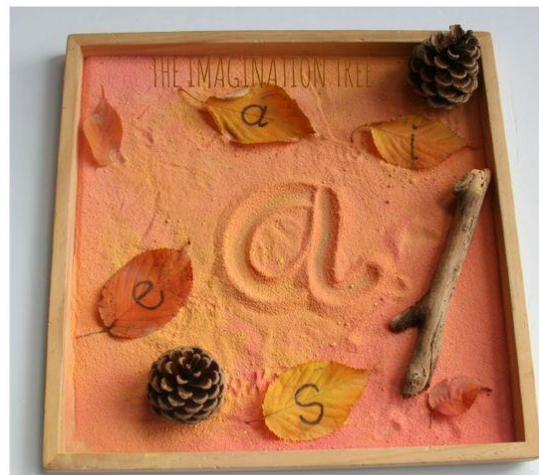


Different types and colours of paper, different pens and pencils, envelopes, stampers and other fun stationery can all be very motivating when your child is writing. Maybe you could even create a special writing corner or area!



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?

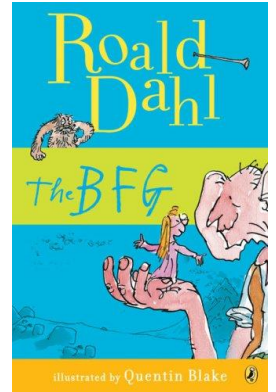
Handwriting does not have to be boring! Let children practise drawing letters in sand, water or paint, or use white boards or blackboards. Pattern books can be fun to do and allow children to practise mark-making. Children can also make letters using playdough, pastry or shaving foam.





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!

