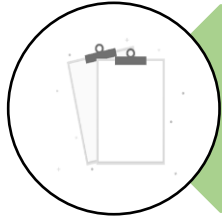




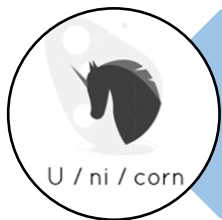
Beginning Writing

Writing involves children listening to their own speech to find out which sounds they need to write, and then finding the letter forms needed to record those sounds. Providing opportunities for your child to write daily will help them to rehearse taught strategies and become more confident. The link between reading and writing is important. We can use what children read as a stimulus for their writing.



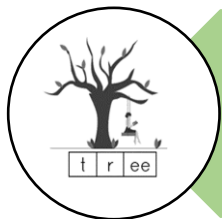
Beginning Writers

Blank, unlined paper has been found to be the most supportive way of helping beginning writers to organise their writing in terms of space and direction. Lined paper imposes too many constraints on the child that they may not be ready for.



Syllables

Clapping out the syllables in a word can help children to break the words and hear the sounds needed when writing the word. This is also a useful activity for helping children to develop their oral language.



Sound Boxes

Using sound boxes helps children to segment and blend the sounds within words. Draw a box lightly in pencil for each of the sounds that are in the word your child wants to write. Encourage your child to say the word slowly and fill in the sounds they can hear in each box e.g 'chair'

ch	ai	r
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Reading into Writing

Using a book your child has read, or that you have read to your child, is a great way to generate a story for writing. Give them a chance to talk about the book; a favourite character or part of the story is a good place to start. Ask them what they would like to write about and get them to repeat their sentence two or three times so they have a good memory of it before they start.



Share the Task

When our children are learning to write it is important that we share this task with them and help them to experience as much success as possible. Do for your child what they cannot do for themselves. If a word is too difficult, you could get them to identify the first sound in the word and write that, then you could write the rest of the word for them. Always encourage your child to re-read what they have written.



Create a Purpose for Writing

Giving children a purpose for writing makes it more authentic and will help to motivate them. Perhaps they could write a story for a sibling/friend or write a letter to their teacher. Think of creative ways to engage your child in the task. The more opportunities they have to write, the better they will become.