



Writing is a fundamental skill that is required for everyday tasks or as part of a job. Children need to be provided with lots of opportunities to write; the more they write, the better they will become. It is also important that children get to experience and understand as many different text types as possible (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, poems, reports, posters, comics, letters, emails and blogs).



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 letter/email to their teacher or create a story/comic strip for a sibling/friend. Think of creative ways to engage your child in the task. The more opportunities they have to write, the better they will become.



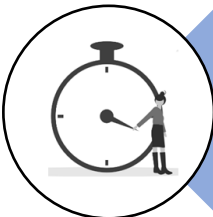
Reading into Writing

The easiest way for children to create a specific text type is to give them an example. Showing children an authentic text will help them to see how key features have helped to create the text's purpose (visit www.literacywagoll.com for examples of different text types). Have a conversation with your child about the text. Discussing topic vocabulary or sentence structures will help them understand how these could be used in their own writing.



Planning Writing

Children don't need to plan *every* piece of writing but it is a good way to draw attention to specific text features that they will need to include in their writing. There are different ways that your child can plan; they should plan in a way that suits their learning style and the text type e.g. talking about their ideas, creating a mind map, writing a list of ideas, using a planning template.



Set a Time Limit

One piece of writing does not need to be completed in one day. Agree an achievable time limit with your child; keeping writing sessions short will help them to maintain focus. It gives them time to think - they may bring new ideas to their writing the next day that they hadn't thought of yet. Daily writing is the most beneficial way for your child to become a more confident writer but this isn't always possible - do what you can.



Proof Reading and Editing Writing

Encourage your child to proof read their work and edit any spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes. At this point your child can try to 'uplevel' their work too. Can they find a better word to use (e.g. '*sprinted*' instead of '*ran*') or a better opener to their sentence (e.g. '*Suddenly*' instead of '*Then*'). Using a thesaurus can help your child to see alternatives and will help to extend their use of language.



Publishing or Sharing Writing

When your child has finished proof reading and editing their work, consider what the purpose was and either publish or share their work. Send the letter/email they have written, publish their blog, film them sharing their story with a sibling/friend or enter it into a competition. This can be a hugely motivating and rewarding experience for your child and will help them to see the value of writing.