

My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource

Writing with My Child



Make writing a part of your child's everyday life.

Writing gives your child a way to express ideas, feelings, and thoughts in his or her own words. Writing builds a foundation for learning.

Encourage your child to write at home using either the language used at school or the language your family uses every day at home.

Encourage your child who is just learning to write to:

- print his or her name on greeting cards
- make an alphabet book
- help write the grocery lists
- write short messages to members of the family (e.g., Thank you for helping me. Have a nice day.)
- make words using magnetic letters
- cut up small sentences and put them back together.

How You Can Help Your Child Write

- Have a variety of print materials available for your child to copy or use as a model when creating her or his own writing (e.g., familiar books, picture dictionaries, lists, and menus).
- Help your child understand letter-sound connections.
 - Have your child point to toys or pictures of characters in books, and then you write the word or name as your child watches.
 - Sound out the words slowly as you write them.
- When children begin to write, they often spell words as they hear them. Let your child spell words the way he or she thinks they should be spelled. Spelling accuracy will develop as time goes on.
- When your child is ready to write some words on her own or his own, provide encouragement. Provide help when your child asks.
- Make simple books with pictures and key words on a topic of interest. Search for information on the Internet or at the library.



Use pictures to help your child write.

Drawing and painting help young children develop the coordination needed for writing.

Children often tell stories as they draw. Young children often like to draw or paint pictures and add written words to their pictures.

- Encourage your child to label parts of pictures.
- Have your child draw pictures to tell a story, and then help your child write the story in his or her own words.
 - Talking about your child's pictures will help your child learn new words and understand how to tell a story.
 - Knowing how to structure a story helps your child become a better writer.
 - Telling stories out loud develops oral language skills, which help your child organize and express ideas in written form.

Learn more about your child's education by visiting
My Child's Learning: A Parent Resource
<http://www.mychildslearning.alberta.ca>