



The Write Stuff

Did you know that learning how to write is much more than writing the letters? You can do these things with your child at home to develop good writing habits.

MOTIVATION TO WRITE

Children love to do what they see their parents doing. If you write in front of your child and talk about what you're writing and why, your child will be more motivated to write, too! Ask your child to help you think of what words to use when you're writing anything, such as a shopping list, a birthday card, or even an e-mail.

DISPLAY WRITING

One of the first steps in the writing process is scribbling. While it may not look pretty to us as adults, it is very important to the child. Display your child's writing in a special place in your home to show your child that you value writing and recognize their attempts as important. Some ideas for display include a refrigerator, cork board, and mirror.

THE "WRITE" TOOLS

When children have access to writing supplies, they will be more likely to become interested in writing. Place writing supplies like blank paper, notepads, crayons, and pencils in baskets or containers around your home. Introduce the writing supplies to your child and explain that they are to be used only on the paper to avoid any mishaps.

GROCERY LIST

Use the writing supplies to create a grocery list. Ask your child to tell you what items are needed from the grocery store, and write them on the list. If your child shows interest, invite him to "write" the names of the items on the paper. Then, take the list to the store and invite your child to help you read and shop!