**Ways Parents Can Support Writing at Home**

*Adapted from The National Association for the Education of Young Children*[[1]](#footnote-1)

* **Encourage all writing efforts.** Make writing an everyday part of your children’s lives at home!  Remember, those first scribbles are important—they are the first step in learning to write.
* **Look back over your child’s writings with them**. Notice and praise the growth your child is making as a writer.
* **Let your children see you write for pleasure**. Send family letters to relatives or friends. Let everyone in the family contribute a part or an illustration.
* **Display children’s writing in a special place.** Hang your child’s work on the refrigerator, a bedroom door, or a corkboard; tape it to a bathroom mirror or tile. Or, scan the writing and send it to the grandparents. You will be telling your child that her writing is important and worthy of being shared. She will want to write more and more.
* **Encourage your child to bring their writer’s notebook whenever they go on family outings**. Whether it’s to grandma’s house, a soccer game or restaurant, there will be plenty to notice, wonder and write about.
* **Create greeting cards for special occasions.** Provide paper and crayons or markers so children can make cards and then "sign” their names when finished. Show them old cards with phrases like "Happy Birthday,” "I Love You,” and "Season’s Greetings” to copy on their cards.
* **Create an "office” for your child.** Gather different kinds of paper, envelopes, pencils and pens, crayons, stickers, and labels. Place them on a shelf near a desk or table or in a basket your child can carry to a comfortable place for writing. Add interesting and exciting items like address and date books, calendars, or an old computer keyboard.
* **Involve your child in writing while running errands.** Offer a pad and pencil and suggest your child make a "reverse shopping list”—a list of things you’ve already bought. At the bank, give her a blank deposit slip while you fill out yours. These tasks let children write and keep them busy as they learn new skills!
* **Put writing materials in several places around the house.** Provide pencils, crayons, or markers in coffee cans or baskets, along with a basket of small, unlined pads, notebooks, or clipboards with paper. Place these collections in the bathroom, kitchen, or living room. Be sure to remind your child to write on the paper and nowhere else.
* **Take it outside!** Let your child write or draw with chalk or old paintbrushes and water on sidewalks and fences. Fill up backpacks with writing tools and paper to take in the car or while doing errands.
* **Invite your child to dictate stories.** While playing together, encourage your child to tell you a story about where the cars and trucks are going or who lives in the Lego house. Write down exactly what she says. Read it aloud afterward. Suggest that she draw some pictures to illustrate her story.
* **Leave notes for your child in his lunch box or school bag**. Leave notes for him/her around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for you. Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.

1. https://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/reading-writing/support-writing-home [↑](#footnote-ref-1)