

Over time through regular exposure to words through reading and seeing them around them, they will begin to build an understanding of how words should look—and may realise 'hws' for 'house' doesn't look right, even though they don't understand all the rules.

To begin with it is important that writing is kept purposeful and meaningful to your child rather than grammatically correct. Try some of the following activities to develop enthusiasm, skills and enjoyment of writing:

- Invite your child to keep a journal (pictures, labels etc.)
- Play post office at home—decorate an old box into a letter box and write notes to each other!
- Have a writing area, a box full of paper, pencils, crayons, chalk boards etc. You could role play and write shopping lists!
- Model writing by writing a simple message to your child each day. They may soon want to respond back...

Most of all make sure your child has fun in their learning!

How can I help my child with writing at home? (KS1)

Information for parents



West Pennard
CE Primary School



Writing is a vast topic when thinking about the number of different skills needed in order to be an independent writer. With the different writing styles; from fantasy stories to persuasive leaflets to historical report is a huge step from the first stages of development of making marks on paper. But not forgetting the actual mechanics for holding a pencil and forming letters, to the grammatical skills and the actual sentence structure and the use of language for effect. It makes us realise how writing can be a time when we need to multi-task and juggle different skills which as adults, we often take for granted. So where do we start in knowing how to support writing at home?

Early Stages of Writing

- Marks on paper—talking about 'drawings'
- Drawings will become more recognisable
- Squiggles to represent 'writing'
- Pencil hold
- Letter formation (also of correct size)
- Words (name)



It is important when your child begins to try and communication with you what they have drawn or 'written' to listen and take time to discuss with them—praising them for their attempts. As your child begins to understand that the squiggles on paper are like the print they see in books, the two activities of reading and writing begin to connect.

How to help your child

- Write the child's name (first name only, starting with a capital letter. Let them go over your letters to practice.
- After your child has discussed their drawing, label what it is by writing the word underneath or think of a simple sentence together about the picture.
- As writing requires fine motor control (holding a pencil), you can do other fine motor control activities using their fingers: lacing cards, threading beads, constructions sets, jigsaws, play dough, using chalk, buttons, cutting etc.

Practising letters and handwriting

Soon children progress to learning how to form letters correctly by first tracing over letters, drawing over the lines etc. At this point it is still in a non-cursive script, joined up handwriting is addressed later during KS1.

Words and sentences

From learning phonics/sounds, children are taught how to blend together to form words. They will gradually begin to blend letters and sounds and segment them to help them read and write. From simple CVC (consonant—vowel—consonant) words, they will soon begin to develop longer words and short phrases. Child develop at different rates and no set timescale is given. It is very important that you show the value and appreciate your child's early attempts with lots of praise. A child feeling that their attempts are no good, will quickly become reluctant writers.

Letters and sounds

As children try to figure out the relationship between letters and sounds (which in the English language don't correspond!) in their writing they will invent their own way of spelling and often using the letter name strategy. Therefore, they will write as they hear, such as elephant as 'l-f-n-t'. They will often miss out vowels or hard to sound out consonants. Encourage your child to sound out the word slowly. This will help with segment a word into sounds. Hearing separate sounds in words and connecting them to letters is a vital beginning stage in your child's ability to use phonics to decipher words.