

Some ideas for you to try writing at home

Be a good role model for your child

- Write lists before you go shopping, things to take on holiday etc
- Birthday, Christmas, Thank you cards
- Invitations and letters
- Notes and reminders, use Post Its
- Keep a simple diary
- Forms
- Let your child write on your junk mail

Encourage good spoken language and vocabulary

- Spend time talking to your child when you are out in the car, on trips, holidays etc.
Build up their vocabulary
- Explain the meaning of words
- Try to describe things and think of as many words as possible eg Lego is plastic, hard, bumpy etc
- Try to use longer sentences; model correct sentences
- Make up stories and rhymes together

Word and sentence building

- Reinforce left to right movements
- Play listening games eg I spy with sounds at the beginning or end
- Build rhyming strings eg cat, hat, mat orally
- Build strings of words with magnetic letters and change one letter
- Build sentences - magnetic words

Handwriting and fine motor skills

- Practise tracing, colouring, cutting, threading, dough, construction, sewing to develop finger skills
- Practise letter formation by writing using different pens and paint, large brushes and water on outside walls, 'magic pencils' on the carpet, in the air, on each other's backs, on the tiles in the bathroom, blackboards, whiteboards
- Correct letters that are incorrect, point out differences between letters eg b and d

Children need to learn that:

- Writing occurs in lines from left to right, from top to bottom, and from front to back
- Writing occurs in different forms for different purposes
- Writing conveys meaning and is used for communication
- Words are made up of letters
- Letters and numbers are different
- Sentences are made up of words
- Words have spaces between them
- Writing includes punctuation marks, which are not letters
- Writing is a process involving planning, editing, self-correcting and crossing out.