



Real Writing

Many elementary age children, as well as many adults are reluctant to write. Most often it is because they do not see a purpose for writing or they do not know what to write about. You can help you child become involved in writing at home. This will help develop confidence for writing at school. Encourage your child's interest and motivation to write by creating real purposes for writing. An education term for real writing is "authentic writing."

Providing lots of opportunities for daily writing at home is important. Weekly writing is not enough. Have you child write things such as grocery lists, recipe cards, post cards, cards, planning trips, taking down phone messages, or invitations. These types of writing activities make you child feel important. Writing for real purposes is rewarding and the daily activities of a families present many opportunities for purposeful writing.

Involve the internet for writing opportunities. There are any websites that allow for evaluating of critiquing. For example, on Barnenoble.com kids can write a review of a book and post it online. Many children's authors such as Mary Pope Osborne, the author of the Magic Tree House Series, encourage children to be a part of a writing club. You can also have you child write email to you about something special that happen during the day. There are pen pal websites that allow children to communicate with children in other parts of the country or the world. Writing can be a fun way to communicate with

each other. For safety reasons, just be sure to always participate closely when your child is using the internet! The internet can be a great tool but there are also be very dangerous.

To support brainstorming practice drawing, painting, or sketching before writing. Drawing strengthens hand muscles and provides a child a mechanism for planning what to write. Having a family journal is one way for the family to practice drawing and writing together. One person can start an idea or topic and then all members in the family have turn writing and drawing in the journal.

It might be tempting to correct the grammar and spelling in all of your child's writing exercises. Grammar and spelling come in time with practice and reinforcement. Instead, the goal of family writing should be to develop ideas and have a positive sharing experience.

“The idea is to write it so that people hear it and it slides right through the brain and goes straight to the heart.”

-Maya Angelou

