

EARLY WRITING INFORMATION

GRAMMAR VOCABULARY

DEMARICATION	Demarcating sentences shows where sentences end by using a full stop, exclamation mark or question mark.
WORD CLASSES	Describe the different types of words children use in sentences. An adjective is a describing word, a verb a doing word and a noun is a person, place or thing.
NOUN PHRASES	To describe a noun, we can put the adjective first to create a noun phrase, e.g. the <u>red</u> bus or the <u>giant</u> shark.
CONJUNCTIONS	Words that join two clauses together, for example 'and', 'because' and 'or'.
SUFFIXES	A group of letters that are added to the end of the word to change the meaning, e.g. large > larger or largest.
CONTRACTIONS	Words that are joined together to become one word, using an apostrophe e.g. can not > can't.

THINGS TO DO AT HOME

READ

Reading stories together will expose your child to new vocabulary and exciting plots. It will give them ideas and help to get them excited about writing. Ensuring a child reads their phonics book will help them develop their use and confidence with sounds.

TALKING

Having opportunities to orally rehearse sentences and be confident with this will help children's confidence with putting ideas down on to paper. Talk about what you see as you walk home, make up silly stories together, sing nursery rhymes - it all helps writing!

WRITING FOR PURPOSES

Provide opportunities for purposeful writing - letters, shopping lists, diaries - there are so many things to write.

BE A WRITING MODEL

Show your child how important and fun writing can be by modelling it yourself at home.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Developing fine motor skills can help children develop the muscles to hold a pencil and help increase their stamina for writing. A few things that can support this are:

- ★ Jigsaw puzzles
- ★ Playing with Play-doh!
- ★ Using a variety of tools, eg tweezers, scissors and pegs!
- ★ Throwing and catching
- ★ Building with blocks and lego
- ★ Threading activities - cheerios and pasta are great!
- ★ Using different sized pens and pencils

RELUCTANT WRITERS

Some children may find it tricky to engage with writing and therefore might avoid it or refuse to do it. There are lots of reasons why children might be a reluctant writer including:

A LACK OF CONFIDENCE a blank piece of paper can be a scary thing!

FINE MOTOR DIFFICULTIES holding a pen or a pencil might be painful or tiring.

NOT KNOWING WHAT TO WRITE children can be overwhelmed by why that they need to or want to write and may not know where to start. They may not have the ideas to put something down

There are lots of things that can encourage children that are reluctant writers, to write at home and develop this important skill.

MAKE IT PURPOSEFUL

Encourage children to write for a purpose, a letter to someone to say thank you, a post card to tell someone what you did.

WHAT EXCITES THEM

Does your child love aeroplanes or dinosaurs - can they write about what they enjoy doing?

DIFFERENT TYPES OF PENS AND PENCILS

Have a variety of pens and pencils for your child to use, thicker pens and pencils can help children who find it harder to hold a pencil. Chalk and paint are also great ways to develop fine motor skills!

LOTS OF PRAISE

Praising your child for even the smallest bit of writing can help them become more confident.

WRITING IN DIFFERENT SPACES/PLACES

Does your child like making dens? Could you stick a piece of paper under a table and encourage them to write upside down? Some children like to write in different ways and spaces, home is a perfect opportunity to explore this!

