



How to get the most out of writing together

A quick guide before your first session

You don't need to be a writing expert to make this work. You don't need to correct spellings, suggest better words or know what a good ending looks like.

Your job is simpler than that. You just need to be present and interested. Before you start, find a quiet moment together and put the phones away.



1 Start with the image, not the page

Before anyone starts writing, spend a few minutes just looking at the image together. Each prompt comes with its own questions to get you started, but don't rush straight to them. Wonder out loud first. Let your child lead.

Consider asking

- Which words come into mind when you look at this picture?
- Does this remind you of anything you've seen or read before?
- What questions do you have about the image?



The point is to get ideas flowing before the pressure of writing begins. This is where the best writing actually starts. There are no right answers.

2 Use the questions and writing starter

Once you've talked through the image, the prompt questions and writing starter are there to help your child find a way in. Read them together, talk about them, and let your child choose the direction they want to go. There's no right way to respond to a prompt. Encourage your child to follow what interests them, not what they think the answer should be.

3 Your role is audience, not teacher

Once your child starts writing, resist the urge to correct or suggest. Instead, listen. React. Ask what happens next. Let them feel that what they're putting on the page matters to someone. A child who feels heard writes more, and more confidently, than one who feels corrected.

4 It doesn't have to be long

Save it, celebrate it, and if your child wants to, you might even come back another time. Some sessions will flow. Some won't. That's completely normal.



Some sessions will flow. Some won't. That's completely normal. The habit matters more than any single piece of writing. **The fact that you're here, sitting down with your child, is already doing something important.**