



WHY ENCOURAGE YOUR PREKINDERGARTENER TO WRITE?

Families of

Pre-K Children

When you help your child to write, he or she learns about sounds within words and how letters match the sounds.



How To Support Writing at Home

Write for Meaning.

Make writing exploration meaningful.

- If your child is pretending to be a vet with his or her stuffed animals, offer your child paper to write a prescription.
- When you are making your grocery list, let your child make his or her own list, too.
- Encourage your child to write his or her name on drawings.
- Have your child tell a story while you write it down.
- Ask your child to pick a picture from a book or magazine and write about what he or she sees.

Focus More on the Process.

Focus less on the product.

- Allow your child to write without being concerned about his or her handwriting.
- Help your child focus on putting ideas on paper, instead of forming letters or spelling words correctly.

Provide Writing Materials.

Give your child pens, pencils, paper, notepads, and/or a journal.

- Share junk mail, catalogs, and old magazines for your child to write on.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal.
 - Let your child take a journal when you take them on walks and encourage them to share what they write.
 - Give your child time to stop and write or draw what he or she sees or feels.
 - “Read” the journal together when you get home.

Understand Emergent Writing Skills.

The start of writing skills.

- **First:** Scribbling, drawing, or mimicking “grown-up” writing.
- **Next:** Copying words from books, posters, or cereal boxes, showing knowledge of letter formation and the concept of words.
- **And then:** Drawing and writing strings of random letters to convey a message.
- **Finally:** Matching letters to their sounds to write words.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy: Prekindergarten

<https://literacyessentials.org>

Parent Resources for Reading and Writing: <https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/parents>

Supporting Very Young Writers: <https://www.readingrockets.org/pdfs/edextras/60195-en.pdf>

Activities and Projects: <https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/families/support-writing-home>

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