

What Teachers Want You to Know about Your Child's Writing

Understanding how your child learns about and masters the aspects of writing can help you assist her in building writing skills.

What matters most in writing are the words, sentences, and ideas, NOT spelling and punctuation. Perfection in writing develops slowly. Be patient. When you look at your child's writing, Show more interest in the content, not the errors. Applaud your child's thoughts, word choices, and ideas.

Good literature is a great way to learn how to write. We learn to write by writing, and we also learn to write by reading! Next time you read a book together, help your child to pay special attention to the language, words, and organization that an author uses in his/her books.

Help your child experience a wide variety of writing. In school, your child should be writing letters, lists, stories, poems, and essays. Involve your children in writing at home, for example, helping with grocery lists, adding notes to a calendar, and sending cards or thank-you notes.



Ask to see your child's writing. Show your child that you are interested in what they write, and encourage the use of writing journals and folders, both at home and at school. Journals and Folders are important means for helping parents, teachers, and children see progress. Most writing should be kept, not thrown away.

Let children see you write often. You're both a model and a teacher. Have children see you writing notes to friends or family members. Read aloud what you have written and ask your children their opinion of what you've said. Make changes aloud so that your child sees that making revisions is a natural step in writing.