

Writing is the Practice of Every Reading Skill Taught

Your child knows a majority of the letters and their sounds and is able to start spelling on his/her own. We call this developmental phonetic spelling. It begins as "pretend writing". Writing will progress in stages from scribbling, then stringing random letters together to form "their" words, next they will get the first/last letter correct and the final stage is adding in the vowels. This is a slow process, but one you can see already happening. The hardest job of a parent is to let them just use the sounds they hear and not apply all of the rules in our language at once.

♥ Create an "Author - Illustrator" Box or area for your child to feel free to go to as you model and encourage your child to write and draw:

- s/ghs
- l/sts
- rec/ipes
- thank-you notes
- letters
- stories
- create little books
- cards
- notes to family members
- copy literature books with little text
- Journal about outings, holidays and special events

♥ There should be one location at home that contains all writing "props" and art materials (that you allow in the house). You don't have to introduce all of the items at once - when you observe your child getting weary of certain items, then introduce or change to new ones.

♥ Instrument Suggestions: pens, thin and wide crayons and pencils, bold and pastel colored pencils, colored chalk, colored markers with various tips, typewriter, computer ...

♥ Material Suggestions: all types of paper, paper stapled to make small blank books, note pads, memo pads, self-sticking pads, all shapes and sizes and colors of envelopes, canceled stamps, stickers, address labels, adhesive tape, glue sticks and bottled glue, hole punch, paper clips erasers, brad fasteners, yarn ...

♥ Elective Suggestions: rubber stamps in letters and numbers and things your child loves, washable ink pads in a variety of colors, mini dry erase board with wipe-a-way markers, mini clipboard, regular clipboard, dry pasta letters, letter and number stencils, magnetic board or aluminum cookie sheet with letters and number magnets, scrabble letters ...

♥ Reference Suggestions: literature books with little text for copying fun, children's dictionary, telephone book, restaurant take-out menus, catalogs, old calendars, children's magazines, advertisements ...