



Write

How can so much fun get my child ready for school?

Children learn to write as they learn to speak, from their out-of-school environment - from television, product labels, bumper stickers, magazines, newspapers and the books and signs you read to them. Writing begins well before children spell or compose. It starts with some wiggly lines on paper. All scribbles count! Children learn to write by seeing it done and practicing. If you write, your children will model what you are doing.

Try these at home!

- **Write her story for her.** Let your child tell you a story and you write it down on paper. You can help her start the story or add something exciting to help her develop the plot. Show her the words on the paper and make the connection that these are her words in writing.
- **Ask questions while reading.** As you are reading a favorite story aloud to your child, stop on a page and ask, "What do you think is going to happen next?" This helps children think about what is happening in the story and what makes an exciting story.
- **Make room for writing.** Recycle plain paper that children can use for writing. Keep lots of pencils, pens, and markers handy so that children can reach them if they want to draw or write. Remember, scribbles are the beginning of letters. All scribbles count!



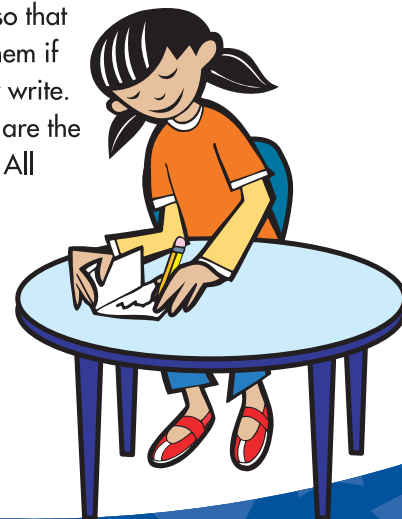
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Things to say:

- **"Tell me more about your picture."** Getting children to talk about their work will encourage them to do more and feel proud of what they are drawing and writing.
- **"Wow, you made so many interesting shapes!"**
It doesn't matter if you can't read it. Making shapes and drawing strengthens fingers and hands for fine motor coordination.
- **"That is great writing!"** Praising your child's early writing will motivate her to write more.

Read all about it:

Wipe Clean Early Learning Activity Book, by Roger Priddy

Cat Can't Write: A Cat and Dog Story (Learn to Write Readers), by Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself Book, by Jeff Kinney



Illustrations by Corey Smigliani

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