

Fun Ways to Have Your Kids Write at Home

Compiled by Jaime Koo

Make Lists

Lists can be great first writing experiences for young writers because they do not require full sentences. Additionally, they aide in developing organization skills.

- Make grocery lists by category (fruit, vegetable, meat, dairy, etc.)
- Wish lists for birthdays or holidays
- List books for reading log or books a child would like to read
- Goals for school, extracurricular activities, etc.
- For gatherings or parties, list people to invite, menu/food items, decorations needed, activities, etc.
- Places to visit or a “bucket list” of things to do
- Items they need to pack for a trip

Write About Experiences

Writers can keep these creations for personal use or share with others.

- Keep a nature discovery log
- Keep a journal
- Create a scrapbook or story about a vacation or special event
- Create a travel brochure of a recent trip to share with friends
- Write a family play about a recent event attended
- Create a recipe book of foods your family likes to make together

Write to Connect with Others

- Write letters to friends. These can be friends in their current class or old buddies from preschool or former towns you’ve lived in. Put a twist on it and create your own secret code!
- Write a letter to family
- Write a letter to a character from a favorite show or movie
- Send a holiday or seasonal greeting to children in the hospital, the veteran’s hospital, or a nursing home
- Write to an author about a favorite book
- Write to a musician about a favorite song
- Write a thank you letter to a community helper
- Write a persuasive letter to a local politician about something you would like changed in your community
- Create a shared journal with your child

Write for Informational Purposes

- Research and write about family history
- Write a book review (Check out <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/swyar/write.asp>)
- Research sites to visit for an upcoming vacation

Creative Writing

- Draw and write comics or manga
- Write and perform a play they can perform. Include scenery and costumes. Catch the action on video!
- Check out free online writing programs like Storybird.com or Storyjumper.com
- Enter a writing contest