

Reception: Ideas to Get Kids Writing!

We just wanted to give parents some further guidance and ideas to support their child's writing while they are learning at home. We hope that you find the tips and ideas below useful. The amount of writing your child does each week will depend upon their age, stage of development and level of interest. If everyone aimed for twice a week minimum then that would be a good guideline, however by no means are we saying this is a must! Every family will have their own priorities right now, and that is fine.

For children who are beginning to write sentences, encouraging them to put a 'finger space' between each word will help them (and you!) to read back their work. Children have also been introduced to where 'full stops' go.

Ideas to promote writing...

- **Go with your child's interests!** Ask children to write about what they are interested in. For some children this could be a favourite TV programme, book or a game they might have enjoyed playing. For others, it might be writing about their interests in a particular theme, such as dinosaurs, or castles.
- **What did you do today?** This may feel a little trickier right now but you could take some photos or ask your child to draw a picture of something they did in the day. It could be something they did in the garden, ate for lunch, or a game they played with a sibling. Now ask them to write about it. This could be adding some simple labels, using their phonic knowledge to sound out words, writing a sentence, or for others, writing something a little longer. You could build upon this and make it into a 'diary' of your child's time at home.
- **Write a letter or postcard to a friend** – While the Royal Mail is still doing a great job, take advantage and ask your child to write to a friend or family member. If they live close enough, post it through their door while you're out for a walk. Or, take a photo and send it to someone in a message. This is a great way of keeping a connection, cheering someone up, and getting your child to write for a real purpose.
- **Building writing into play** – what games or toys has your child been playing at home? Can they add some labels to a Lego model, write a menu while playing cafes, or make a list of things they need while playing shops. These are all the sorts of things we would encourage children to do in class.
- It's a challenge! Children love feeling like they are accomplishing something and turning it into a challenge or a game is a great way of keeping them motivated. Hide some pictures around the house and get them to write labels for the pictures they found; give them a list of words to spell in one minute, how many did they get right? The options are endless.

We are missing you all and cannot wait to see you all!

Kind regards,

Julie Durrant-Patel and Geraldine Allsopp