



## Weekly Bulletin No 3: Writing

*'Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.'* - Anton Chekhov

This week's bulletin from **Literacy Counts** is jam packed with writing ideas for school and home. Take a look below and bring a book to life with your children today.

- 
- Have paper readily available for writing and drawing
  - Make sure your child has access to a table or surface to write comfortably
  - Draw attention to any writing you do as an adult, including writing notes, shopping lists etc.

- Read, read, read! There is very strong research evidence which shows that reading can positively impact on children's writing
- Try to provide authentic reasons to write and offer your child choice in what they wish to write or include in their writing. This will provide greater motivation.
- Talk about the content of the writing and focus on this rather than the spelling and handwriting, to begin. Composing a piece of writing takes a lot of thought - discussions around making it better can come later.

You can find fun story ideas anywhere! Why not raid your kitchen cupboards or hunt through the attic to find lost treasures? Anything from an old hat to a telescope will do. What could the object be used for? Who might be looking for it? What secrets could it hold?	Set up a writing station. This can include notebooks, memo pads etc. You can also gather family photos and magazines in the centre that can be used as story starters.	Giving your child the opportunity to tell stories orally is a great way to get them used to structuring their ideas and using adventurous language. If they're not sure where to start, see if they can retell a story that they already know well, like Little Red Riding Hood.	Some children might enjoy drawing their own comics. This is great practice – it stretches your child's creativity, gets them thinking about plot, character and dialogue, and is a big confidence boost once they have finished and have an amazing story to look back on.
Write to a friend, a family member or a penpal. This helps keep a steady focus on writing and isn't just a one-off activity. There is a certain joy in receiving a written communication from a friend too!	Real world facts can be a great source of inspiration. For example, did you know a jumping flea can accelerate faster than a space rocket? What crazy story can your child make out of this fact? Newspapers and news websites can be great for finding these sorts of ideas.	Ask your child questions when she writes such as: "How did that happen? How did it make you feel? Can you tell me more about that? What other words could you use to describe..."	If your child isn't sure where to start with a story or even a piece on non-fiction, it can sometimes be helpful to sketch out their ideas first. For instance, can they draw a picture of a dastardly villain or a brave hero? How about a scary woodland or an enchanted castle?
Help them email, text or write to family or friends. Show your child when you write and why you are writing.	Share your child's writing with others. Place it on the refrigerator or encourage your child to write for children's magazines / web competitions.	Work with your child to put labels and captions on special things – like the door to their room, toy box, favourite toy etc.	Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspapers or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose and audience.

## Useful Reading Websites:

More advice and activities for parents:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-writing/>

Children's writing competitions

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/competitions-for-children/childrens-writing-competitions/>

Daily writing challenges and writing videos:

<https://litfilmfest.com/home-learning/daily-videos/>

Ways to plan pieces of writing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/planning-your-writing/z46nqp3>