



Lower Key Stage 2 Writing – How can I support my child at home?



Supporting your child at home

The basis of all good writing is dependent on knowing lots of words and being able to join them together in interesting and accurate ways.

Encourage your child(ren) to:

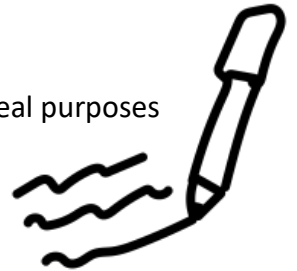
- explain a game or activity
- describe a person, place, picture or thing retell stories
- talk about things they have done e.g. visits, day at school - encourage detail
- predict what might happen next in a story, TV programme or sequel to a film
- play word games

At Hagley Primary School, we understand and celebrate the importance of reading. Often, exposure to quality texts is the key to fantastic writing.

- Be a reading model and read to your child (e.g. stories, poems, factual information such as timetables, magazines, newspaper reports, letters, emails, adverts, instructions) – discuss the ways authors use words to shape their ideas.

For children, seeing the adults around them use writing is key.

- Be a writing model and encourage your child to write alongside you for real purposes e.g. shopping lists, birthday/Christmas lists, labels, invitations, thank you letters, emails to friends, postcards, cards for relatives, scrap books of holidays/hobbies/special events, diaries, posters for real events, short stories or poems for family members, menus, texting, bedroom or house rules.
- Have an exciting selection of writing materials available e.g. a range of pencils, pens, coloured crayons, writing icing, writing soaps for bath time.
- Praise your child for trying and don't dwell on mistakes. Focus on content and enjoyment of writing for fun and for purpose.



Games can play an important role in building children's vocabulary.



- Play word-building games to develop descriptive vocabulary such as Boggle, Scrabble, Guess Who, 'What am I?' (one person thinks of something to describe. They give clues by describing it, without saying its name. Other players have to guess what it is with as few clues as possible.)
- Create silly sentences or tongue twisters using alliteration (a group of words that all begin with the same sound) e.g. Sad Sid slipped on Sam's salad sandwich.
- Play 'I Spy' and 'Hangman' which encourage use of sounds and spellings.



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Ensuring that sentences are accurate is essential; this builds the strong foundations for more complex writing later on.

- Encourage your child to rehearse their sentence out loud before they write it down. Remind children that ‘the basics’ (full stops/question marks/exclamation marks and capital letters) are essential.



Spellings

- Spellings are an important part of developing children’s writing – this is why we ask for them to be a key focus at home as a part of home learning.
- Help your child go over problem spellings. It is extremely frustrating for children to have to battle with spelling and handwriting when they want to get their ideas down on paper.
- Knowing high frequency spellings will aid the flow of writing and enable the use of a vocabulary rich language. (Consider being trapped into writing ‘big’ when you really wanted to write ‘enormous’). Encourage children to sound out and have a go at more tricky words or give them the spellings.

Confident Writers

- Help your child write a letter to their favourite author. Details can be found on the internet.
- Write information pages or booklets about a hobby or something they find interesting e.g. dinosaurs, class topics, sports stars etc. Illustrate and label. Encourage use of paragraphs for blocks of information.
- Write postcards from holidays and record holiday events in a diary that can be shared with friends or family.
- Provide your child with a comfortable place to work and exciting writing materials.
- Encourage dictionary use to develop independence.
- Let your child see you being a model writer but also let them see that you are not perfect! Checking, making changes and editing what you write are a natural part of writing.
- Read books to, and with, them that are at a higher level than their own reading to expose them to ambitious vocabulary and complex sentence structure.



Encouraging Reluctant Writers

- If your child has barriers towards writing, or low self-esteem as a writer, praising and valuing your child’s writing is very important. Your child may need support when



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they write and may need you to talk through their ideas first and help with composing and structure.

- Remember that writing does not have to be lengthy or boring! Writing for real purposes is more meaningful and rewarding for children and creates a fun and interesting way for children to develop their writing skills.