



Blackwell School

Responsibility

Respect

Compassion

Courage

How to support your child with WRITING in Early Years

Responsibility:
make good choices
because your
actions matter

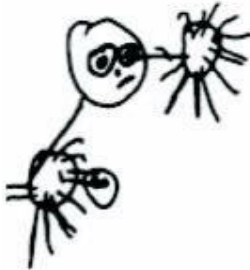
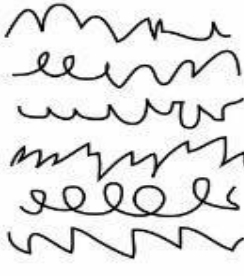
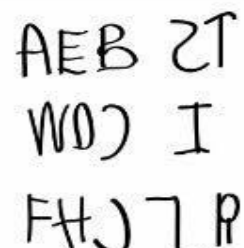
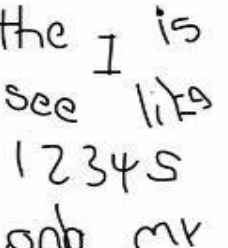
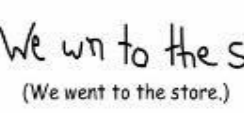
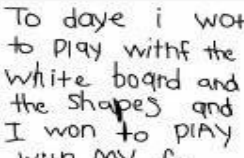
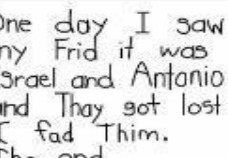
Compassion:
show care and
understanding for
everyone



Courage:
be brave; believe
you can

Respect:
value everyone
and everything in
how you listen,
speak and in what
you do

Stages of Writing

HeidiSongs' Chart of the Developmental Progression of A Child's Writing			
 1. Pictures	 2. Random Scribbling	 3. Scribble Writing (Written in linear fashion to mimic real writing.)	 4. Symbols That Represent Letters
 5. Random Letters (No relationship between sounds of letters and what the child is trying to say.)	 6. Letter Strings (Progresses from left to right and top to bottom when the child "reads" his writing.)	 7. Letter Groups (The groups have spaces in between to resemble words.)	 8. Environmental Print (Child copies print found in the room, often without knowing what the words are.)
 9. Beginning Sounds (Child begins to write simple sentences using sight words and just the beginning sounds of words.)	 10. Early Inventive Spelling (Includes the same elements as the previous level, but with more consonant sounds represented and spaces between words.)	 11. Inventive Spelling (Has the same elements as the previous level, but with more sounds per word written, including the vowels. Some conventional spelling patterns may appear.)	 12. Transitional Writing (Includes all of the previous elements, plus some real spellings of words with silent letters and other spelling patterns. Punctuation is beginning to appear.)

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Pencil grip



Activities to do at home to help develop fine motor skills for pincer grip

Pegging things on to a washing line. 	Threading beads, objects or pasta of different sizes. 	Doing up and undoing buttons. 
Cutting 	Tying knots in string 	Making patterns using small objects 

How you can encourage your child to write at home

1. Give them a purpose. Encourage them to write their name, family names, a letter to Nan and Grandad about what they have been doing or a shopping list. Children prefer to write once they can see a purpose.
2. Model to them what writing looks like. Showing them how to write a post card or a card or letter so they know what it is meant to look like.
3. Make writing fun! Use different coloured paper and pens to engage them in mark making and writing.
4. Buy a 'special' pencil case which is just for their writing implements.
5. Play silly sentences. Write the name of a person; fold the paper over so the name cannot be seen. Next write a colour, and then repeat the process writing a different word each time. Once you get to the bottom of the page read out the silly sentence..
6. Draw and write about their own experiences. Children find it easier to write about things they have done or places they have experienced.
7. Look at Tapestry together and talk about what they have achieved.
8. Play super Sentences. Ask the children a question to respond to or give them different sentences to copy to help build up their writing stamina.
9. Use the ELS sound mat to refer to when your child is unsure of how to write a sound.

Supporting your child to be an independent writer

In school, we support the children in adult directed tasks but always encourage them to write independently and 'have a go' themselves. We encourage the children to follow this success criteria.



Say the word or sentence that you want to write.



Listen to the sounds you can hear in the words.



Write the sound you can hear. Use your sound mat to help you.



Leave a finger space between each word.



Use a capital letter at the start of your sentence and a full stop at the end.

Developing more confident writers

Some children feel more confident with their writing and have a love for it. If this is the case, encourage them to develop their writing by thinking about how we spell some of the tricky words or encourage them to write longer sentences. They could work with you to write a story to help develop their language skills then have a go at doing this themselves.

Letter formation

At Blackwell, we write cursively and practise this in school with the children when they are developmentally ready. In Reception, to start with the children will form letters 'pre cursively'. Here is how we form the different letters to start with.

