Ideas for Supporting Writing at Home

Writing is amazing! It also requires a complex set of skills: physical mechanics of holding tools and making letters, recalling letters, sounds and words. Forming and holding ideas in our heads, making sentences… and then putting it all together!

**Stay positive! Writing is about ideas and communication**

* Talk positively about writing.
* Get excited about the ideas, vocabulary and purpose.
* Don’t focus too much on spelling or handwriting.
* Keep it short and sweet.
* Display and celebrate children’s writing efforts.
* Be a role model - Let your child see you enjoying writing and doing it every day.

**Write for a purpose - Find real life opportunities to write.**

* Making lists - What are we ordering from the takeaway shop?
* To do lists
* Post It Notes
* Text messages and emails - text language is ok.
* Persuade Mum and Dad to do/buy something.
* Thank you notes and cards, etc.
* Personal diaries, cartoons, etc.
* Create codes
* Make up games and activities and write the rules
* Make maps
* Labels and signs - “No parents allowed in my room!”
* Filling in forms - Print 2 copies and invite them to do one.
* Writing song lyrics and jokes. Some children enjoy copying from books.
* Keep a notebook of sports trainings, stats, etc.
* Plan a trip or outing

**Playful - Keep it fun and engaging.**

* Play with words, rhyming is so important!
* Write jokes
* Silly stories
* Tools - fun pens, paint brushes with water, sidewalk chalk, etc.
* Use these tools on different surfaces - chalk or water and brushes on the fence or driveway
* Technology - talk to text, voice typing, online dictionary, SIRI, Alexa.
* Write with your child.
* Make up a play or story and write it together.
* Audiobooks
* ChatGPT

*Have a chat with your school/ teacher…what do they suggest might be good to have fun with at home - but remember… the focus needs to be fun and little bits - NOT making them do more HARD stuff at home. If they are reluctant - don’t push it…*