

Reluctant Writers

'It's the holidays! I don't want to write! I'll do it later.' Sound familiar? The key to writing at home is to keep it **bite sized**. If you are encouraging, upbeat and positive then it will inspire your child to be. Here are a few tips on how to engage your child:

- Set a timer for no longer than 20 minutes and explain your expectations 'I would like you to write 10 sentences in 20 minutes, let's go!' Leave your child to work independently for 10 mins then go back and celebrate what they have done so far- be specific- 'I really like that adjective 'rough' that you have used.'
- A whole page of lines can be daunting. Put a small dot on the line you want your child to get to. At first have a small expectation and over time build it up. In Year 2 a small expectation might be 3 lines in 20 minutes, the standard expectation would be around 10 lines in 20 minutes. Remember, it's ok to start small and then expect more.
- Get your child to type! Lots of children are very motivated by computers. Asking your child to type instead of write their ideas may be much more motivating for them.

Fun websites to keep that brain working...

- <http://www.literacyshed.com/>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>

Practising writing in the holidays will greatly benefit your child and leave them feeling ready for Year 3. We hope you have fun!

Keeping My Brain Busy in...



Writing is a really important skill you have worked very hard at all year. Writing your amazing ideas down mean they are captured forever and you can enjoy reading them back over. We encourage you to keep up your writing skills over the holidays with a few simple and practical ideas.



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Expectations for writing:

Must

- Use capital letters and full stops
- Spell Common Exception Words correctly

Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words

Year 1			Year 2			
the	they	one	door	gold	plant	clothes
a	be	once	floor	hold	path	busy
do	he	ask	poor	told	bath	people
to	me	friend	because	every	hour	water
today	she	school	find	great	move	again
of	we	put	kind	break	prove	half
said	no	push	mind	steak	improve	money
says	go	pull	behind	pretty	sure	Mr
are	so	full	child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
were	by	house	children	after	eye	parents
was	my	our	wild	fast	could	Christmas
is	here		climb	last	should	everybody
his	there		most	past	would	even
has	where		only	father	who	
I	love		both	class	whole	
you	come		old	grass	any	
your	some		cold	pass	many	

- Use adjectives to describe e.g glimmering, shiny, cold
- Use different types of sentences; command, statement, exclamation and question

Command: You must tie your shoe laces and zip your coat.

Statement: I like running and swimming.

Exclamation: What a delicious meal you have made! (it starts with **how** or **what** and contains a **verb** and !)

Question: Should I walk through the mysterious door way?

- Use conjunctions (and, but, so, because) and subordinating conjunctions (if, when)
- Spell words with ninja apostrophes e.g didn't, can't
- Spelling words with suffixes e.g. helpful, kindness, ladies
- Write in the correct tense - past, present or future
- Use exciting verbs e.g sprinted, glide, sprinkle

Even better if:

- Use adverbs e.g carefully, gently, crossly
- Join your handwriting



Ideas for Writing



- Describe your favourite character
- Choose your favourite picture book and describe a scene
- Re-write a favourite story of yours but change 1 thing like the characters, setting or endings
- Get inspired to write by visiting the **fantastic** website <http://www.literacyshed.com/> . Watch some short clips and write creative passages about what you see
- Write a set of instructions for a disgusting recipe or how to build an amazing treehouse
- Write riddles about weird and wacky objects and get your family to guess!
- Write a short descriptive piece about a magic potion, or a special invention
- Send a postcard to a family member or friend
- Write a letter to an elderly relative explaining about your holidays or fun learning from Year 2
- Write a recount pretending to be a person from the past or character from a book
- Choose your favourite non-fiction topic and write a short paragraph about it - football, skateboarding, gymnastics