

How to Increase your Student's Writing Skills at Home

Tips and Ideas

1. Make a Menu

Let your child design and write the menu for a family dinner while you do the cooking. Write difficult words for them to copy, or let them look up words in a dictionary. This activity can be done on art paper with gel pens, or on a word processing program.

2. Write Lists

Let your child write the grocery list as you dictate what you need from the store. This is a good way to keep her occupied while waiting to go to the store and to help her develop a sense of responsibility for household activities. Children can also write lists to pack for a trip, plan a busy week, and prepare for back-to-school or holidays.

3. Write a Letter to Grandparents

Keep a supply of kid note cards and stationery on hand for letter writing. A letter from a grandchild is always a delight; bad spelling and punctuation is overlooked!

4. Set a Goal

Teach your child the valuable skill of writing personal goals.

5. Write a Picture Story

Draw a line about 2/3 down on a sheet of art paper. Let the child draw a picture of anything she wishes at the top. Then, guide her to write a story about the picture at the bottom. Let her write unfamiliar words phonetically. Guide her to use the basic story elements of 'character, setting, and plot'.

6. Newspaper Reporter Activity

Your child can play reporter and learn the 5 W's of writing with this activity. Write 'Who, What, Where, When, and Why' down the left side of a sheet of paper. You guide your child to watch a news story or learn about one online, and to note on their sheet the 5 W's of the story. Carry it even further by writing an opening paragraph to the news story and comparing it to the newspaper article on the story.