



- Explain how to use writing programs such as ‘Word’ and ‘Publisher’ and write about things that interest your child or write stories.
- Show your child how to keep a diary.
- Buy a special notebook for your child to use to do writing activities that they choose to do.
- Write emails, letters to family or friends.
- Write captions for photos.
- Write rhyming poems together.
- Write secret codes.
- Have a supply of materials such as paper, stapler, pens, coloured pencils, glue stick, magazines for your child to make books, posters, comics, cards.
- Help your child find words in a dictionary (that suits their age/ stage).
- Help your child use a computer spell checker to edit writing.



HOW WE TEACH WRITING at Houghton Valley School *info for families*

- We use assessment to identify your child’s writing needs, then we teach, then we assess to gauge improved levels of achievement.
- We aim to use authentic contexts for writing and we often link writing to reading, oral language and other learning areas.
- We share ‘learning intentions’ with children—these clearly state what we want children to achieve and what they need to get there.
- We share models of quality writing.
- Children give feedback on each other’s writing.
- We consider content, spelling and punctuation to be important.
- Teachers model, prompt, explain, question, direct, tell, give feedback.
- We celebrate success in writing.
- Teachers observe each other in order to identify areas for improvement.



Please contact your child's teacher for clarification

Reading helps writing

Children who read often get to see models of writing and encounter new words

Writing needs a purpose

Try to link writing to a purpose—even if it's just having fun!

Writing at home should be enjoyable

If it isn't, give up what you are doing and try writing about something else

Help! Help! Help!

Don't hesitate to help to make writing easy for your child; share the writing task

Encourage and celebrate!

Enjoy your child's pieces of writing and avoid direct criticism—make 'suggestions' if you think s(he) could improve something



WAYS TO ENJOY WRITING AT HOME

- Encourage children to read because books that they enjoy will provide models for writing.
- Read to your children and discuss characters, events, facts, word meanings etc.
- Tell stories—for example, on a car trip you could begin a story ask your child to finish it.
- Play word games such as Junior Scrabble, Boggle, Hangman, 'I Spy'.
- Do crosswords and wordfinds together.
- Write notes to your child.
- Practise printing using correct letter formation.
- Have your child write notes to family members.
- Write shopping lists together.
- Practise memorizing the spelling of frequently used words.
- Make cards for family members, friends to celebrate birthdays, Mother's Day, Christmas etc.