

# Helping your child to write



## **What about handwriting?**

### **Does it always need to be neat?**

It depends who you are writing for. Special writing such as letters, invitations, postcards and greetings cards need to be legible.

Good handwriting can be helped by...

- sitting in a comfortable position.
- holding pens and pencils correctly.
- encouraging correct letter formation.
- sometimes showing them how to make a letter sit on a line.

It is important to remember that when children are busy concentrating on what they want to write then they often forget about neatness.

There are times when this is acceptable as long as it is a record of their ideas.

## All children can write!

Children who write, read. Children who read write.

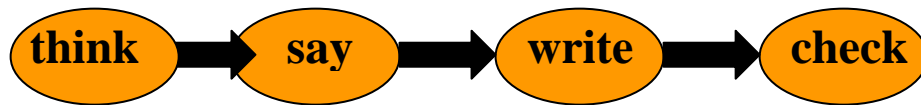
### What about punctuation?

Don't worry too much about punctuation when your child first starts to write.

Encourage your child to use capital letters...

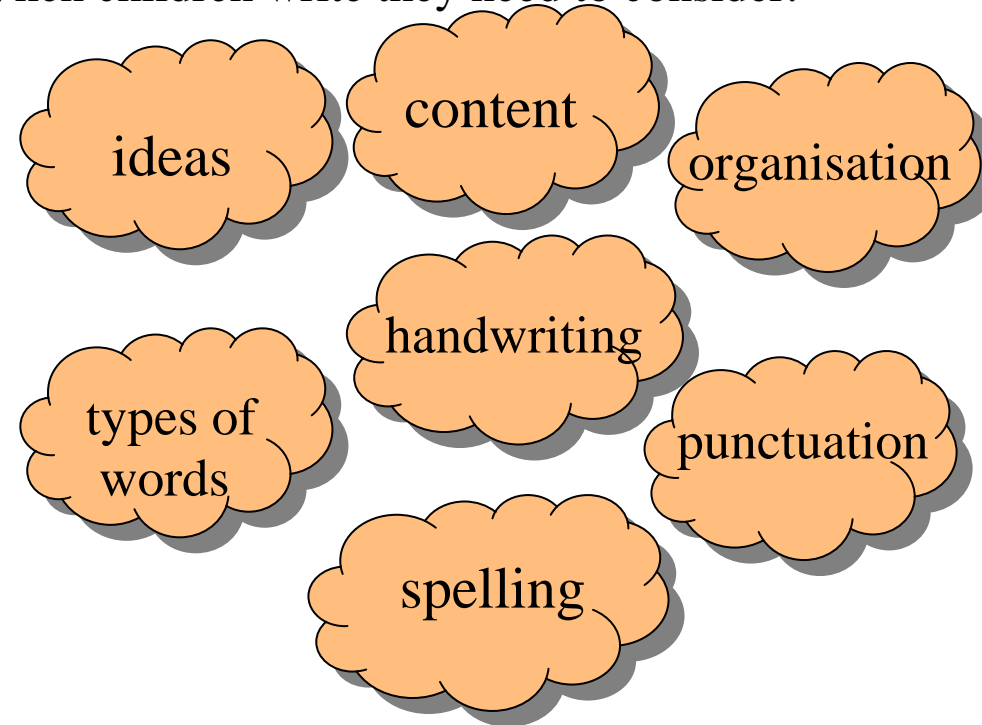
- at the start of each sentence
- for 'I'
- at the start of names of people and places
- for the first letter of days of the week and months of the year

When they are more confident help them to think about their sentence.



When reading together, draw your child's attention to the punctuation.

When children write they need to consider:



If we work together we can help your child to become a successful writer.

## How can I help my child to spell words when they are writing?

### How can I encourage my child to write?

- Let your child see you write in lots of situations.
- Encourage your child to write for different reasons.

shopping lists  
birthday cards  
postcards  
letters  
notes  
simple  
instructions  
e-mails



- Talk about their writing and praise their ideas.

- Always encourage them to have a go, using their knowledge of letter sounds and words.
- Give them words when they are really stuck.
- Talk together about tricky words.



## How do I help my child to organise their writing?

**If your child is going to write a story you might like to try some of these ideas.**

- Talk to your child about the important parts of a story. All stories have a beginning a middle and an ending. Use familiar stories to show them examples of these.
- Tell stories to your child and ask them to tell you their favourite stories.
- Tape them telling their own stories.
- Sometimes you might like to write the story down for your child.
- Encourage them to write out favourite stories, changing some parts and making it their own.
- Encourage your child to make little story books. These could be illustrated and shared with family and friends. Children love making their own books!

Non fiction writing can include letters, invitations, cards, a set of instructions, lists and writing facts about interesting things.

**If your child is writing a letter an invitation or a card you might like to try some of these ideas....**

- Let them see real examples and talk about the special ways in which they are written.
- Show them how you would write them.
- Give them lots of opportunities to write letters and postcards to friends and family.
- Talk to them about what they are going to write.



## Make your child a writing tool kit.

If your child is going to write a list, a set of instructions, or some information or facts you might like to try some of these ideas...

- Show them real examples and talk about the special ways in which they are written.
- Show them how you would write them.
- Look through information books together, talk about the index and contents pages and use them to find information together.
- Ask your child to write lists and instructions for real reasons e.g. a shopping list to take to the supermarket or a set of instructions for a neighbour to feed the cat.



A good tool kit might include pens and pencils, paper in assorted colours, sizes and shapes, felt tips, markers, card, labels, stapler, envelopes, glue, post-its, card, scissors, computer etc.