

Tips from Anne Robbins-Literacy Support Specialist

Help your kids become better writers by encouraging authentic writing at home.

Here are some real reasons to write...

- Thank you notes
- Phone messages
- Shopping lists
- Party Invitations
- E-mails to friends and relatives
- Reminder notes to others in the family
- Jokes and riddles
- Diaries or journals (especially vacation journals)
- Persuasive argument to a parent
- Writing to a pen pal

Tips to help your children improve their writing

- Let your children see you writing
- Brainstorm ideas and ask open-ended questions like...
 - o How did you feel when...?
 - o What does it look like?
 - o I was wondering why...
 - o I'd like to know more about...
 - o I'm a little confused about...
 - o How do you plan to end this story?
 - o What's the most important thing you want to say?
- Tell your child, "Don't worry about spelling right now. Just spill out your ideas for a few minutes. Let your pencil take you along."
- Ask, "What do you see, hear, smell, taste or feel in your imagination?"
- Really listen to your child and show genuine interest in his/her ideas.