

# Writing Begins

## Tips to help children gather ideas for writing

Young children need to learn the words to describe their surroundings and relationships to others. These words will be used in their writing when they are older.

- Help your children learn words to describe their thoughts and things that happen to them.
- Encourage your children to talk about their experiences and the world around them.
- Reinforce your children's ideas and their confidence by your positive reactions and encouragement.



Help your children  
find the words to  
describe their  
thoughts.

## How can you help?

Young children learn about reading by writing; they learn about writing by reading; and they use oral language to learn about both.

Help your children:

- learn the meanings of the new words they encounter in stories, their environment and at playtime
- learn the alphabet and write some letters
- recognize and write their names
- spell simple words

Write notes, letters and lists in front of your children so that they understand that writing is an important and useful skill for everyday living.

**Deb Nesbitt-Munroe**  
Kingston and the Islands  
(613) 546-9355

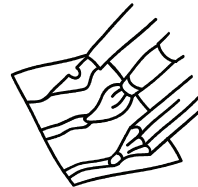
 **Ontario**  
Early Years  
Literacy

**Susan Ramsay**  
HFL&A  
(613) 354-6318 ext. 32

## How to respond to your children's writing

The way you respond to your children's writing will play an important part in what they attempt next. Here are some ideas on how to respond.

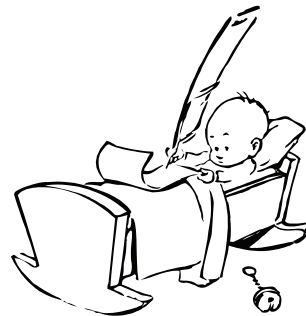
- Show an interest in your children's writing.
- Respond to the content first.
- Ask about the subject matter.
- Ask your children what they think about the writing.
- Read the writing together.
- Don't overload your children by pointing out too many mistakes.



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## Something to Remember

Young children can be very independent in their early writing. We can slow writing development by asking children to copy **our** corrected version of what **they** want to say. Children can begin to feel that their writing is not good enough and this can effect confidence and limit their motivation to write independently.



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