

## Home Learning- Fresh Writing Activity To Inspire Your Children

No matter your home-school style, try a fresh writing activity to inspire your children. Though these writing ideas are aimed at unstructured home learning, most children will find them appealing. They'll work on writing basics while learning to express themselves in interesting new ways.

We believe that most children want to write before they want to read- they would scribble and write from an early age and ask us to read it!

**There is something magical about putting pen to paper and making your words appear.** It is such a real and concrete way to communicate with others. But when inspiration doesn't strike and you hear "I don't know what to write!", you need to find some **creative writing ideas for pupils.**

### Writing Projects For Children At Home!

#### Newspaper Story

A great way to get your child writing is to make use of your daily newspaper. Find a newspaper article or magazine article that may be of interest to your children. Get them to write more about the characters of the article. What happened to them? What did they do afterwards?

Or try the same thing just using headlines cut from the newspaper.

**Cut out some headlines and stick them at the top of blank (or lined) sheets of paper** . Keep an eye out for really funny headlines that you think the kids will like. If your newspaper headlines are boring, **mix words from several headlines** until you get something unusual! For older children you could choose political or current affairs headlines. **Ask the children to write a story to go with the headline.** And don't forget that all good newspapers need pictures too!

#### Write a script

Write and perform a puppet show, play or animation.

#### Make a Journal

Journals don't have to be about 'What you did at the weekend'! You can use them to explore all sorts of topics. Who are they? Cut photographs of people from magazines and ask the children to pick two or three of them. Write about who the people are, what their lives are like, and how they might know each other.

#### Comic Books

These are fun to write (remember to let them read lots of comics as research!).

#### Make an ideas jar

Cut out slips of paper and write a word or two on each - blue/smooth/frosty/loved. Get the children to pick three to five words and make up a story using them.

#### Design and write an online Blog

It seems to motivate children if their musings are to be read by lots of people.

### Write a Movie Review

Show the children some reviews by movie critics, then watch a movie for them to review.

### Write a Haiku or Limerick

Or try writing some a type of poem

### Do a scavenger hunt

Make a bag filled with items you find either on a nature walk or around the house. You could set a theme such as ten blue items, or items that weigh less than a certain amount. Gather the items together and try to weave them all into a story.

### Write reports or reviews about favourite books.

Too often, children become discouraged with writing when they can't pick what they'd like to write about. The same goes for reading. While most standard reading programs have good intentions, they don't consider **children's diverse tastes**. Put the ball in their court! Encourage them to **pick their own books** and write summaries, reviews, or creative book reports. If one of the children needs boundaries, you might give three books from which to pick.

### Pretend you're a reporter and interview people.

Teach children early on that the process of writing is deeply connected not just with their own thoughts, but with **others' opinions**. The best way to learn this is by talking to others about a specific topic or issue. For example, ask them to interview older family members on facetime about what life was like when they were children. Or, talk with a community worker about his or her job. When they've conducted several interviews, have them compile them into a story or article.

### Go on an outdoor adventure and write a descriptive piece of writing

**Outdoor adventures often turned into writing opportunities** as you explore the world around us. Stuck indoors, inexperienced writers can forget to include descriptions of scenes and setting. Instead, take them for a walk. First, have them take notes about their surroundings or use a speech-to-text device to record their impressions. Later, invite them to write a short report or story containing details about **what they saw, smell, heard, and felt**.

### Write and perform a short play

Whether they're young or old, it can be hard for writers to master an ear for spoken language. To improve this skill in a fun way, have your child write and act out a short play. When they can hear out loud what they've written on paper, they start to understand how to make their writing **sound more natural and conversational**. It's a great way to improve speaking abilities, too.

*Writing ideas for home learning works beautifully with all learners in a variety of ways. Take advantage of the opportunities and think of as many off-the-beaten-path ways to write as you can!*