



Writing at Walnut Tree Walk

One of our main aims in school is to help the children become confident writers. Below are some ideas about ways you can help your child's writing and build on work done in school.

Children learn about writing in many different ways, through looking at words all around them, or:

- ❖ Sharing book and comics
- ❖ On computers and television
- ❖ Labels and signs in shops and on the streets
- ❖ Through their own reading and writing.

For children who speak languages in addition to English at home, parents and carers can help by reading and writing with their children in their home language as well as in English.

Children learn to write by becoming aware of how words *sound* and *look*. In the early stages it is very important to encourage your child to have a go at writing. Here are a few things you could try at home:

- Share books together. Tell and share stories.
- Encourage your child to join in when you write lists, letters and birthday cards.
- When you write with your child try to use lower case (not capital letters) except at the beginning of a sentence or name.
- Learn songs and rhymes together.
- When reading, talk about ways of remembering how to break up words into manageable parts, e.g. Wed/nes/day, hol/i/day, Sep/tem/ber.
- Play games such as hangman, word searches and crosswords.
- Encourage your child to read through their own writing and check for errors.

- If your child asks you how to spell a word you can ask how it begins, then listen to the other sounds they can hear in the word and then have a go at writing the word down.

Next steps for more confident writers:

- ✓ Encourage your child to write a book or film review.
- ✓ Encourage your child to research information for their topic, through books or the Internet.
- ✓ Encourage your child to keep a diary.
- ✓ Encourage your child to write to people who will want to hear their news.

Praise, praise, praise!

Your child's confidence is very important. If children develop a negative image of themselves as a 'writer', this can affect their ability to learn in the future.

Be positive and celebrate small successes!

Learning to spell the most frequently used words will help your child enormously; attached is a basic list to help you get started. The most important thing is for your child to have a go at spelling words rather than insisting that your child gets the word right.

Below is a list of useful writing websites:

<http://www.ambleside.schoolzone.co.uk/ambleweb/lookcover/look.cover.html>

http://gridclub.com/look_it_up/index.shtml

<http://thebigbus.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/magickey/>

If you need advice, or more suggestions, do come and speak to your child's class teacher.