



Wee Learn

Wee Experts (5 - 6 years):
Support Writing at Home



Chances are that your child will experiment with writing long before he or she learns to read.

Here are some ways to help your child learn about practice writing:

- Display children's writing in a special place: Hang your child's work on the refrigerator, bedroom door, etc. because it is showing them that their writing is important and worthy of being shared. This will encourage them to write more.
- Write in front of your child and talk about it: whether writing a shopping list, or emails, explain what you are doing and possibly get them to add to what you are writing.
- Invite your child to dictate stories: while playing together, encourage your child to tell you a story about what they are playing with, and write down what they say. Afterwards, get them to add to the story and draw pictures to go with the story. At bedtime you can read the story together.
- Create greeting cards for special occasions: provide opportunities for your child to make greeting cards for special occasions (i.e. grandparent's birthdays). They can copy phrases such as 'happy birthday' or 'I love you' on the card and then decorate it anyway they want to.
- Create an 'office' for your child: gather different kinds of paper, pencils, crayons, pens, etc. Place them on a shelf near a desk or table, and when your child gets the urge that they want to write or draw they have their 'own office' they can use to be creative.
- Involve your child in writing while running errands: offer a pad and pencil and suggest your child make a 'reverse shopping list' of things you have already bought at the grocery store, or what you have completed during your errands.
- Put writing materials in several places around the house: provide a variety of writing tools and place them around the house. This will encourage your child to jot down their thoughts, draw what they imagined, and share what they wrote with you at dinner time or bedtime.
- Take it outside: when possible let your child write or draw outside with chalk, water and paintbrush, etc.
- Encourage all writing efforts: make writing an everyday part of your children's lives at home! Remember, those first scribbles are important because they are the first step in learning to write.

Source: *Today's Parent* <https://bit.ly/3luWoVJ>

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