

# How to help your child with writing

# Reception

## Ways to help with writing

- Help your child write a letter to their favourite author. Correspondence can often be sent to an author's publisher (whose details can be obtained on the internet) who will pass it on.
- When you go on holiday, encourage children to write postcards to friends or relatives. They could record things that you do in a holiday diary which they can share with friends or relatives when they get home.
- After making a cake or doing a craft activity, challenge children to write the recipe or instructions for someone else to use.
- Write an information page or booklet about something they find interesting e.g. spiders, Dr Who, dinosaurs, cats, etc. Draw a picture and label it or write a caption to go with it.
- Encourage your child to learn weekly spellings and phonic group spellings. Write the spellings in sentences with accurate punctuation and practise high frequency words and handwriting.
- Provide your child with a comfortable place to work and exciting writing materials. A dictionary and thesaurus would also be useful.
- Ask your child what his/her writing targets are from time to time and help them work specifically on these.
- Talk through their ideas with them before they start to write, for example, prompt them to think about how they intend to tackle a subject.
- Help them to reflect on their writing, particularly the effect they hoped to have on the reader. For example, is the reader sufficiently prepared for the ending? Have they introduced all the characters?
- Encourage them to read through their work, shaping their sentences for clarity and impact and checking their accuracy.

On the following pages are the targets your child is working on and will need to be secure in by the end of the school year.

Write simple labels, captions and sentences

- ✓ *the bus*
- ✓ *The red bus.*
- ✓ *The cat sat on the mat.*

Spell unfamiliar words by sounding out

✓ *c-a-t is cat*

Begin to use some story language

✓ *once upon a time...*

## Reception Writing Targets

Spell CVC words

✓ *shop, leg, rich.*

Write letters using the correct sequence of movements

✓ *a, c, q, f*

Write own name, using a capital letter.

✓ *Christobel*

✗ *christobel*

Use capital letters and full stops to punctuate a sentence.

✓ *The jet is big.*

✗ *the jet is big*