



WRITE

How does writing with children help them get ready to read?

There is a strong connection between reading and writing. When children are given a chance to explore scribbling, draw pictures, and tell stories, they are learning reading skills.

When children have a chance to do their own writing, they have a chance to feel connected to print in a different way than when they are listening to a story. Being an active participant in writing helps keep children excited about reading stories.

Drawing pictures and attempting to write letters and words help a child develop print awareness. When children do this, they have made the leap to understanding that marks on a page can carry meaning.

Allowing children to practice making lines, curves, and circles will later inspire them to write letters on purpose. Children sometimes will make marks or a scribble, look at it, and then identify letters that they see. "Look, I made a T!"

Caregivers can prompt discussions by modeling writing for their children and discussing what they are writing and why. Talking about grocery lists, emails, or to-do lists provides opportunities to increase a child's vocabulary while also encouraging writing.

Some of the first stages of writing involve drawing pictures and then telling stories about what the pictures represent. Encourage a child's narrative skills by saying, "Tell me about this picture!" or "What's happening in this picture?"

Preschool aged children often begin to make intentional marks on paper and write "messages" using "inventive spelling." They are thinking very carefully about the sounds that they hear and the letters that they know and putting them into their writing.

