

# JAMES ELLIMAN ACADEMY

## Helping at Home: Year 5 - Writing

### Writing at home

Make writing fun:

- Help your child write about their heroes, hobbies and interests as well as stories using figurative features (alliteration, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors, personification, and idioms). This helps them stay interested in what they are writing about.
- Together write sentences with the spelling word and find the meaning from dictionaries to help your child learn more about words and spelling
- Have interesting paper and pens available or help them make a special book to write in.
- Write to your child, or give them jokes, cartoons or short articles you think they'll like to read from the newspaper.
- Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write – look words up in the dictionary or on the Internet, or talk to family members to learn more about the background and the origins of the words.

**Here's a tip** - be a great role model. Show your child that you write for all sorts of reasons. Let them see you enjoy writing. You can use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.

Talk about your child's writing:

- Talk about ideas and information they are going to write about. Talk about experiences, diagrams, graphs, pictures, photos and material that your child is planning to use for school work. Discussing the information and main ideas can help their planning for writing and their understanding, too.
- Share enjoyment of their writing. Read and talk about the writing that your child does. Give praise for things they have done well to support their learning.
- Talk about how the tense changes according to the type of genre they are writing, e.g. past, present, future, first person, second person. Check that children know which text types would be written in which tense.
- Discuss the tone of writing used for different purposes, e.g. formal or informative. Letters of complaint might be more formal, whereas a diary entry would be more conversational.
- Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write.
- Share your own writing with your child – lists, planning for family events or an email. You can help them to see that you too use writing for different purposes.

**Here's a tip** - keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, anytime.

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Write for a reason:

- Encourage your child to write emails, invitations, thank you letters, poems, stories or postcards to friends, family – make it fun.
- Ask your child who they would like to write to. It is helpful if what they write is given or sent to others.
- Ask them to write a story to read to a younger sibling.
- A diary or journal – on paper or on a computer – can help your child to write about their experiences and their own feelings about things that have happened at school, at home, in the world, at sports events and on TV.

**Here's a tip** - talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand something they are writing about, ask them to explain.

Handwriting practice:

- Children could copy out a printed text, such as from a newspaper, and practise writing it out using joint up writing.

**Here's a tip** - Children should sit on a comfortable chair at a suitable desk when they are doing homework, which will help their posture for handwriting.