

Golden Rules

Getting the balance right between making writing fun AND keeping up regular short bursts of writing practice can be tricky at times. Here are some do's and don'ts to help you out.

- DO encourage your child to draw and paint by providing crayons, felt-tips and paints and a table where they can do these activities whenever they want! The more they are doing this type of activity, the more they will want to write.
- DO involve your child with writing that you do. Encourage them to contribute to making a list, even if they only write the first letter of some items.
- DON'T point out every mistake your child makes when they write. Children need encouragement and positive reinforcement to be confident, and a confident child makes a better learner.
- DO praise your child's efforts, even if you think she's not trying her best! Learning to write is a tiring and lengthy business. It is really important to keep your child motivated.
- DO stop to look at any pictures your child produces and talk about them. Encourage them to sign their pictures (all great artists do this!) and perhaps to write a caption.
- DON'T forget how important your input and attention is - just a little writing done twice a week will help your child to WANT to learn to write and to understand how important you think their writing is.