Writing at Home

Year 3

Be chatterboxes!

Children love to talk and it's so good for them too! In fact, talking **with your child** is one of the most powerful activities you can do. Use a wide range of **vocabulary** and try to use the new words you have discovered when reading together. Talk about everything: experiences you can remember, what you see in the world around you and explanations of everyday activities, e.g. washing the dishes or cooking dinner. All of this talk helps children to explore and understand language and can have a really positive impact on their writing.

Be storytellers!

Photographs, objects and images are a great way to stimulate memory and imagination. Explore your home, looking for photographs or objects that trigger memories. A pair of special shoes, photos of a family day out or a precious gift can be a great way to tell a story. Tell your own stories/memories to your child and let them tell theirs to you.

Handwriting

In Year 3, your child will start developing fluent handwriting skills, making their writing more consistent and easier to read. This includes:

- joining letters whenever appropriate
- making sure that letters look consistent throughout writing
- keeping the spacing between lines of writing parallel and consistent.


Sit at a desk


Put both feet on the floor


Left hand paper position


Right hand paper position

Talking for Writing

Encourage your child to talk about, or say out loud, what they are going to write. This helps them to prepare for writing.

What are you going to write about?

Can you say the sentence aloud before you write it down?

Can you read aloud what you have written?



Check and progress

A great way to help your child to improve their writing is to encourage them to read aloud what they have written. Can they spot any missed punctuation? Can they spot any spelling errors?

How can you motivate your child to write?

- Make sure your child knows their work doesn't have to be perfect first time. They can go back and make improvements later.
- Share your own writing. Let your child see you writing. Whether it be a postcard to a family member, a journal entry or text messages, let your child know you're using your writing skills for real purpose.
- Encourage your child to write about their interests and hobbies.

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Writing checklist:

Is your child using capital letters, full stops and question and exclamation marks in the right place?

Is your child joining their letters carefully?

Is your child using tense correctly throughout their writing?

Can your child use adjectives for descriptions?

Can your child read aloud what they have written?

Can your child spell these tricky words?

door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas

Can your child tell you what these words are/mean?

Noun:	A word for a person , place or thing. There are proper nouns and common nouns. e.g. *door*
Noun Phrase:	A group of words based around a noun. e.g. *bright red door*
Statement:	The most common type of sentence. They tell the reader a fact/idea. Usually end with a full stop.
Question:	A sentence that asks something. Ends with a question mark. ?
Exclamation:	A sentence that shows intense feeling or gets attention. Ends with exclamation mark!
Command:	A sentence which tells someone to do something.
Compound:	A compound word contains at least two root words. e.g. toothbrush, carpark
Prefix:	A group of letters placed before the root word to turn it into another. e.g. like→dislike, do→redo
Suffix:	An 'ending' used at the end of a word to turn it into another. e.g. call→called, teach→teacher
Adjective:	A word that describes a noun. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtfr/articles/zy2r6yc
Adverb:	A word that can modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb. https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-an-adverb
Verb Tense:	The tense of a verb (action word) tells us whether something happened in the past or present
Apostrophe:	A punctuation mark with two different uses: e.g. can't and Lucy's. '
Comma:	A punctuation mark that shows a pause or separates items in a list. ,

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Other ways you can make a big difference



Look for opportunities to give your child some real-life reasons to write. Try these ideas:

- Is there an issue your child cares passionately about? Encourage them to write to a local MP or business to see whether they can create change. This kind of writing can make big differences in the community.
- Work together to send a tweet to their favourite author. Many authors are now on twitter and love to engage with their readers. What would your child like to ask their favourite author?
- Your child might like to write the book of a film or TV programme for younger children to read. If children have watched something they've really enjoyed, they could try and tell the same story in writing. Watching the story on screen can give them a really great starting point to get going with.
- If you've had a recent visit to a park or outdoor space (or museums, libraries in the future) that you have enjoyed with your child, help them to add a review on https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/. Having a real audience who will read their review will often motivate children to write.
- Write book reviews for books your child has read. https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/ is a great website for this.
- Could your child start a blog around their own interest?