

First Level - Ideas for Writing

Writing Sentences

Once your child has mastered writing CVC words and tricky words, they can combine these to attempt writing their own sentences.

Key points:

- Capital letter at the start of a sentence
- Full stop at the end of a sentence (this can develop to a question mark or exclamation mark as your child becomes more confident with punctuation)
- Finger spaces between words
- Sound out cvc words
- Allow your child to attempt longer or more challenging words by writing the sounds they can hear (don't spell everything automatically for them)
- Encourage your child to read back over their sentences to check they make sense

Contexts for Writing

Below are some contexts to encourage your child to write at home.

Diary Entry

Write a personal diary entry about a day or event in your life or pretend to be a character from a book or film and write a diary entry for the character.

Steps to Success:

- Write in the first person (use 'I')
- Write about events/things you have done
- Include feelings and emotions

Newspaper Article

Write a newspaper article about something that has happened in the world or about an event from a book, TV show or film.

Steps to Success:

- Create a short, snappy headline
- Include facts like who, what, where, when, why when writing about what happened
- Include a picture and a quote

Instructions

Write out instructions telling someone how to do something. This could be a recipe or how to do something (like tying shoelaces)

Steps to Success:

- Write in the present tense
- Write in clear, numbered steps
- Use instructional language (First, Then, Next, Finally)
- Use 'bossy' verbs eg. chop, mix, put

Imaginative Story

Choose a setting and some characters to make up your own imaginative story. You could also visit <https://www.pobble365.com/> to see a picture for inspiration.

Steps to Success:

- Choose a genre for your story (scary, funny, magical, action etc)
- Use adjectives to describe the setting and the characters
- Include a beginning, middle and end to your story

Postcard or letter

Write a letter or postcard to someone. You might write to a friend or relative you haven't seen for a while, to a character from a story, to someone famous

Steps to Success:

- Lay out like a letter or postcard
- Include the address in the correct place
- Share why you are writing to them and ask them some questions

Fact File

Choose a subject that interests you (a country, an animal, space etc) and research some facts. You could use books, the internet or ask an adult. Make notes about what you have learned and then use your notes to make a fact sheet or fact book about your chosen subject.

Steps to Success:

- Use headings and subheadings to organise information
- Include pictures or diagrams
- Include captions to explain your pictures or diagrams

Poster

Create a poster to advertise a new product or an event.

Steps to Success:

- Make sure it is eye catching (use colours/pictures)
- Bold, clear title
- Use persuasive language to get people to buy or attend
- Clear information

Poetry

Write a poem on a topic of your choice.

You could choose from

- Acrostic (where the first letter of each line spells a word going down the way)
- Haiku (first line = 5 syllables, second line = 7 syllables, third line = 5 syllables)
- Rhyming poem
- Or research a different type of poem to write