

Writing with your children

Top Ten Tips for Parents/Guardians



Infants to 1st	2nd to 4th Class	5th to 6th Class
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Model writing yourself – shopping lists / letters / cards etc.2. Provide a special place for your child to write / scribble provide a variety of materials- crayons markers /pencils (box)3. Display your child’s name as often as possible i.e. Sean’s Room.4. Teach your child the letters in his own name.5. Provide alphabet books friezes.6. Write messages / reminders to your child.7. Encourage child to write his / her own messages. Computer.8. Praise your child’s efforts.9. Ask child to read their own messages.10. Respond to the messages and not to grammar and spelling	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Praise your child’s efforts – respond to the message and not spelling / handwriting grammar.2. Look for opportunities for purposeful writing activities at home - writing greeting cards, notes, telephone messages.3. Encourage your child to use a word processor / computer.4. Provide a quiet writing /study area for your child well equipped with pencils/ paper5. Encourage your child to keep a diary.6. Support your child’s spelling attempts.7. Encourage him to have a go at spelling difficult words.8. Use scrapbooks to support the child’s hobby / special interests. Presents that support writing.9. Make sure your child has a dictionary to help with writing.10. Help child fill in personal details on forms etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Encourage your child to keep a diary. Respect privacy.2. Encourage your child to write for real purposes everyday – shopping lists / phone messages etc.3. Praise the effort and respond to the message and not the handwriting, grammar etc.4. Make sure that your child has access to a dictionary, thesaurus to help with writing.5. Allow your child work on a word processor.6. Try crossword puzzles and ‘Find the word puzzles’.7. Provide a range of attractive writing materials – coloured pens, fancy paper.8. Encourage your child to write greeting cards / thank you notes etc.9. Encourage your child to take part in writing competitions / community projects.10. Show your child that you value writing by writing yourself.

