

# Sedlescombe Primary's Guide to: Developing a love for Writing at Home

## Writing for Pleasure:

Providing opportunities to write for pleasure, in school and at home, can support children to develop their own love for writing. It allows them to have the time and space, without pressure, to develop their own writing style, writing for an audience and a purpose.



## What can we do at home?

-Drawing, painting, playing with playdough and making marks with and in different materials are all **important steps in to writing**. It also helps strengthen children's imagination as they develop as writers. Allow lots of opportunities for these activities at home.

-Encourage children to **write as much as possible to record their thoughts, feelings and ideas** as part of daily activities. This could be as simple as making a shopping list, keeping a diary of important things that have or are happening or you may want to provide your child with a **special notebook** that they can keep as their own writing journal. They may use it to write stories, notes, ideas, poems or anything they want to.

-Have paper, pens and notebooks in the house and encourage children to use these to **write for different purposes**. When you go on holiday or out for a day trip, encourage your child to send a postcard to someone they want to share the experience with.

-**Writing shouldn't be a pressurised activity**. It should be a way of relaxing, creating and children expressing, communicating and sharing ideas.



## Top Tip:

Gently encourage children to think about the basic spelling and punctuation for their year group. This helps them to practise and apply what they have learnt.

-Get into the **habit of using writing to communicate**. Leave notes for your child, as simple as letting them know what's for dinner and encourage them to do the same. Post-it notes are great for sticking around the house.

-Encourage children to **write little and often**: thank you cards, Christmas cards, short letters to family members, a timetable for the day's activities.

-Talk regularly about subjects of interest to your child, encourage them to **explore their interests**, **read more** information about them and **write notes**.

-When you are watching television together, **talk about what you are watching**. Discuss characters and storylines in cartoon or talk about documentaries together.

-**Talk about new words** your children have heard in conversations, in reading or on TV. Encourage your children to ask when they don't understand a word and talk together about what words might mean. Have a dictionary in the house to look up any words your children aren't sure of as they get older. Can **they use any of these words in their writing activities?**

-**Make your own books together** and write your own diaries, fact books or stories. Simple instructions for this can be found at: <https://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofpictures/creative-approaches/bookmaking>



### The Importance of Rich Texts to Inspire Writing:

Use Rich Texts (the texts they are reading at home) to inspire writing.

#### They could write a/an:

1. Letter to a character.
2. Newspaper report about an event that has occurred in the text
3. Information leaflet about the something from the text (an animal, a plant, a country or place)
4. A set of instructions on how to do or make something (capture a monster, build a time machine, bake a cake)
5. Write a diary entry in role as a character
6. Create a comic book strip of a part of the story

### Useful Websites to Inspire Writing:

#### Literacy Shed:

<https://www.literacyshed.com>

An excellent website, full of short videos to inspire discussion and writing.

#### Purple Mash:

All children have a purple mash account which has a huge array of different writing activities. Children can publish their work too!

