

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WRITING AT HOME

Writing should not be an activity that just occurs at school or when there is homework to be done. To be successful in writing, children need the opportunity and encouragement to write at home through a variety of activities. Parents can promote writing in the home in many ways.

- Supply children with writing materials. Always keep plenty of paper, notebooks, and pencils available.
- Share writing with your children. Show children letters or correspondence and responses you have received.
- Discuss the ways writing is used in the workplace.
- Use a chalkboard or family message board for written messages in the home.
- Encourage children to make lists or help with your lists such as shopping lists, directions, plans, notes for school, etc.
- Insist that children write thank-you letters for gifts they receive.
- Encourage children to make their own cards and invitations.
- Encourage letter writing to friends, relatives, and penpals.
- With children, write letters requesting information or samples such as travel brochures, products, etc.
- Begin a journal or diary. Children will like to record activities along with their thoughts and feelings.
- Suggest ideas for children's writing projects. Many children like to write and illustrate their own books or interview other people.
- Help children with their writing. Share ideas and help with mechanics when they ask.

DISCIPLINE TIPS

Discipline is something that all parents must deal with yet it presents one of the most difficult aspects of parenting. Part of the problem is that many parents view discipline strictly as punishment, when discipline really means to teach. Discipline is an ongoing process of guiding children in their behavior and learning right from wrong.

There are many positive steps that parents can take to improve discipline in the home.

1. Stress the "do's" rather than the "don'ts".
2. Praise children when they behave well. Show your approval with a hug or smile and special attention.
3. Set limits for children. It is important for children to know exactly what is expected of them and the results of their behavior.
4. Do not make rules you do not intend to enforce. This sends a mixed message to children.
5. Allow children to take responsibility for their own actions. When children are old enough allow them to begin making their own decisions.
6. Set a good example. Children will learn behavior from parents, along with their sense of values.
7. Respect children and they will learn to respect others.
8. Be consistent with children. Expectations for behavior and results of behavior should be the same from day-to-day and for all members of the family.
9. Design punishment to fit the child and the offense. There should be an association between the misbehavior and the punishment.
10. Avoid physical punishment that can be harmful to the child.

Example is not the main thing influencing others. It is the only thing.