

How to Help Your Child With...



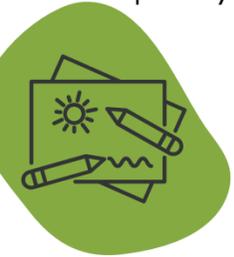
Letter Formation

Before writing with a pencil, support your child's fine-motor skills by:

- building letters with Play-Doh
- tracing letters in sand, rice, or shaving cream
- forming letters using magnets or blocks

When your child is ready to write with a pencil:

- encourage holding the pencil with a comfortable, relaxed tri-pod grip
- remind them to start letters at the top when appropriate
- focus on forming letters correctly, not quickly



Writing

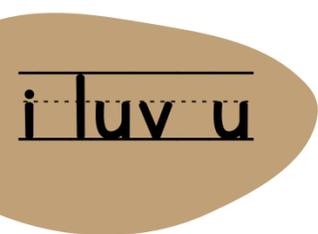
Writing begins long before spelling words correctly. Scribbling, making symbols, and drawing all count!

Give your child meaningful reasons to write, such as:

- drawing a picture and telling you about it
- writing a card, note, or message
- labeling a picture, map, or creation
- designing a sign (for a bedroom door, a game, or a pretend shop)
- creating a treasure hunt with written clues

When your child writes or draws, focus on what they are communicating, not how it is spelled or formed. Ask questions like:

- "Tell me about your picture."
- "What does your writing say?"



Spelling

Spelling is closely connected to reading. Children learn to spell by listening to sounds in words, connecting sounds to letters, and noticing patterns over time.

Encourage your child to say a word slowly and listen for the sounds they hear. You might say: "Let's stretch the word and listen for the sounds." "What sound do you hear at the beginning? At the end?" It's okay if the spelling isn't correct yet. Celebrate attempts like "kat" for cat or "frend" for friend.

Aa Bb
Cc

Learning Letter Names & Sounds

Children learn letter names and sounds best through short, playful, and repeated practice and games.

Place a small set of letters (3-6) in a bag or pile.

Each turn:

1. Pull out one letter
2. Look at the letter
3. Say the letter name, then the sound

Switch roles and repeat. Keep the set small so children experience success.

Listening Skills



Play simple games that help your child listen carefully, remember what they hear, and follow directions.

You might try:

- Simon Says - listen closely and follow only the directions that begin with "Simon says..."
- Repeat and follow - say a direction and ask your child to repeat it back before doing it (e.g., "Jump two times.")

Start with one-step directions and gradually add more steps as your child is ready.

Repeating the directions first helps children hold information in their memory before acting.

Conversation Skills



Help your child build confidence speaking with others by practicing in everyday situations.

You might encourage your child to:

- order their own ice cream
- hold the door and say hello to someone
- talk with a relative on the phone

Encourage your child to speak using full sentences.

If conversational skills feel challenging, try a ball-passing game. Take turns passing a ball back and forth. Each time someone receives the ball, they ask a question or make a comment. This supports turn-taking and conversation flow.