

THE WRITING PROCESS – Recommended Activities to do at Home

Education today emphasizes the role that the home plays in a child's success in school. The following activities are easily carried out and require little preparation or background knowledge. These activities focus on time that you and your child can spend together. True writers enjoy playing with words not just for school assignments; they enjoy stretching their wings and expressing themselves on paper wherever and whenever.

Fishbowling:

1. On separate small strips of paper, jot one of the following open-ended writing prompts:
 - Write about your day.*
 - What do you hope to do tomorrow?*
 - What is one of your favorite memories?*
 - Describe your dream car/house.*
 - Where would you like to travel?*
 - Describe one of your friends without naming him/her.*
 - Describe your breakfast.*
 - Free thinking...*
2. Place the bunch of slips of paper in a bowl.
3. Once a day/once a week, have your child pull, "fish," a slip once and complete a writing piece at home. For some reason the "fishing" part has an element of surprise that always seems to draw the children into the activity!
4. Ask your child to share his or her writing with you. Refrain from making corrections to the writing; let this activity just be about the joy of putting pen to paper or fingers to a keyboard.

Story Stepping:

1. Start a creative story! Begin with a few sentences or paragraphs and...
2. Then pass it along to your child. Ask your child to continue the story for a bit (without ending it). Encourage your child to take the story in ANY direction.
3. Then, you add a bit more, then the child continues it further... This is a true cooperative activity between parent and child. The final piece will be something you created together!

Co-Journaling:

In a co-journal, a shared journal, the child writes about his/her day, and you write about your day. This co-journal becomes a shared book of thoughts and reflections. The cojournal

especially is good for those who have busy schedules and may not have time to share the little moments of their day.

Read-Alouds:

There are several books that have limited or no text. They are fabulous platforms to ask, "What happened? What is going on?" Together, you can talk through the possible story ideas with your child:

Any David Wiesner book:

Tuesday

Flotsom

Sector 7

The Three Little Pigs

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg.

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs

All in a Day by Mitsumasa Anno

Even the ***Where's Waldo?*** books work well!

Your TV Destination

for Kids and Families ©2010 Hub Television Networks, LLC. All Rights Reserved