

Literacy at Home: A Focus on Writing

Writing is one of the ways children can express their creativity and thinking. It also supports them in becoming better readers. According to author, educator, and literacy expert Pam Allyn, “writing helps to cultivate emotional growth, develop critical thinking skills, and improve school performance” (Tartakovsky, 2011).

A study by Graham & Heckbert (2010) showed the following:



Writing about a text deepens understanding. This can include: writing personal reactions or analysis, writing a summary, taking notes, and creating or answering questions in writing



Explicit instruction about writing, using text structure, sentence construction, and spelling patterns helps students improve reading comprehension, fluency, and word reading



Increasing how often students write improves their reading comprehension



So, what can you do at home?
Here are some ideas:

- Write lists
 - Grocery list
 - Christmas list
- Write how-to paragraphs
 - How to build a snowman
 - How to decorate a Christmas tree
 - How to make pancakes
- Write letters or cards to family and friends
- Write a review of a book, movie, game, or restaurant
- Write a story with a problem and a solution
- Write about reading
 - Summary
 - Reaction to a plot point
 - Personal connection