



Let's Focus on...

Improving Writing



Writing is 'a central feature of social life, as it is used to communicate, share ideas, persuade, chronicle experiences, and entertain others.' (Freedman et al., 2016).

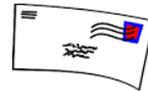
Education Scotland describes writing as 'a core skill which impacts on learning in all subject areas. Young people explain and extend their thinking through writing. It requires them to review their knowledge and understanding of subject content to select key ideas and information and recreate this in their own words.'

The Writing Process

Writing is a complex task requiring learners to transfer their ideas into text. This involves learning how to:

- **gather and organise information**
- **develop technical skills** (spelling, handwriting, sentence structure, grammar and punctuation)

Our approach teaches children to recognise the features of different genres of writing (Personal, Persuasive, Procedural, Imaginative, Recount, Report) and how to write for different purposes.



Before children can convey their ideas in writing they should have lots of opportunities to talk and tell their stories.



Children may find talking as they draw helps them to organise their thoughts and tell their story.



Reading/telling children stories helps to develop vocabulary and understanding of language.

Exposure to a wide variety of texts and encouragement to read widely will support children's development as writers.



What can you do to help your child develop as a writer?

Gathering and organising information

- Value all attempts at mark-making and encourage to your child to tell you about the 'stories' they have written.
- Read to your child every day and chat about the story. Can they tell you what happened at the beginning, the middle and the end?



- Offer opportunities to write for a purpose, relevant to your child's age, e.g. a shopping/Christmas list, letter to a friend/relative, Santa, the Tooth Fairy, etc.

- Much writing is now created digitally. Support your child to create a digital text, using a computer or a tablet. Younger children can record and play back their stories, older children can compose and send an email to someone they know.



Technical Skills

- Encourage your child to form letters correctly using an effective pencil grip. A guide to support correct lower case letter formation is included overleaf.



- Help your child to spell unfamiliar words but encourage them to have a go first! Frequent opportunities to read and write will help to familiarise your child with the correct spelling of commonly used words and regular practice will help to reinforce spelling rules.



- Reading their writing to you will help your child to see where punctuation marks should be.

Lower case letter formation

The letter formations taught in school are shown below. Learning to form letters correctly helps children to develop fluent joined script.

