



Parent Resources
powered by:



FIVE WAYS

to help your child become a
better creative writer!



UNLEASH YOUR
CHILD'S IMAGINATION!



Creative writing expresses ideas and thoughts in an imaginative way. This type of writing is meant to entertain the reader. Being creative and pretending is part of being a human but for some, it takes a little more encouragement. At times though, children can have difficulties putting their words down on paper for assignments in a timely fashion. Creating an environment at home that fosters these skills can help them become a successful writer.

Here are a few ways to help your child become a better creative writer:

1. Give your child enough time to be creative

Creative writing requires higher-level thinking from your child. Take a look at his or her schedule and be sure that your child has enough time to brainstorm writing ideas. Encourage your child to spend time writing down thoughts on the different elements of his or her piece.

2. Create a writing environment

Becoming a creative writer takes practice and needs interest. Setting up an environment at home can help support this success. Having writing materials that are readily available and interesting are important. Keeping a writing journal handy is a great way to capture those thoughts, even in the car. One big tip is to play games at home that build vocabulary skills.



3. Use writing prompts to practice

Writing prompts or story starters are a great way to get your child's writing process started. We are all familiar with "Once upon a time..." Ask your child, "What are other ways to start our creative process?" Take time and brainstorm a few with your child for upcoming writing sessions. Kids can get pretty creative. Here are a few other creative writing prompts to try with your child:

- What would you do if you were the last person on Earth?
- What would you do if you could fly?
- How does it feel to be the floor in your house?
- Write a story from the perspective of a rabbit going down a hole. What does the rabbit see, hear and feel?
- Write about what it would be like if you had an alligator as a pet?
- Imagine a giant box is delivered to your house with your name on it. What's inside and what happens when you open it?
- Write a story using these 5 words: apple, train, elephant, paper, banjo.
- Imagine if someone shrunk you down to 1" tall. How would your life change?
- Imagine that dogs take over the world. What would they make humans do?
- Write about what you would do if you had the super power to become invisible.
- Imagine you are a security guard at the zoo and someone has stolen the rhinoceros! How do you track down the thief?

4. Use visual images for writing prompts

Images spark our imagination, so why not use them for creative writing? Keep a collection of images from magazines and even store flyers to prompt writing when your child needs encouragement. One tip is to create a Pinterest Board filled with images for writing prompts. If your child is having writer's block, encourage him or her to start writing down some of the words felt while looking at the images. These could easily become a good prompt for a poem.



5. Write first and then edit later

Creative writing requires a little bit more freedom with our thoughts. As your child is creating, encourage him or her to just write it down and worry about editing later. If your child is having trouble keeping up with a personal creative process, use a microphone from your computer or phone to record the story and then listen and write it down in the next step.



When we support children in a creative environment, their creative writing skills will become a part of their everyday. Creative writing requires practice and supports at all ages. As parents, it's our job to provide materials, time and strategies to help them feel confident in their skills so that they can grow as writers. Creative writing can be a window into our children's minds and thoughts!