

## Writing at home Ways you can support your children at home: writing together

**Write with your child** – ‘think aloud’ so they can hear the decisions you are making as you write. Make sure the writing is for a purpose, for example, a birthday message, a shopping list, an address.

**Talk about the words they see in everyday life** – food packaging, signs in the supermarkets, captions on buses and lorries, messages on birthday cards and invitations.

**Write a shopping list together.**

**Send an email** to a family member or a friend – your child says the message, you write it!

**Provide your child with a shoe box full of things to write with** – writing tools of various sizes and thicknesses: gel pens, crayons, glitter pens, rainbow pencils, old birthday cards, coloured paper, sticky tape to make little books. Rolls of wallpaper can be attached to a table or wall to provide a large canvas for their writing and drawing.

**Praise them for their play writing** – those early squiggles and marks show that your child is beginning to understand writing.



## Ways you can support your children at home: what to do if your child is reluctant to read or write at home

Relax!

### Reading

- Make sure your child sees you reading.
- Read **to** your child. Show you like the book. Bring stories to life by using loud/soft/scary voices – let yourself go!
- Spread books around your house for your child to dip into.
- Let your child choose what **they** would like to read – books, comics, catalogues.
- Read favourite books over and over again. Enjoy!

### Writing

- Make sure your child sees you writing.
- Compose an email together, inviting a friend over to tea.
- Continue to make words together, using magnetic letters.
- Leave a message on the fridge door and encourage them to write a reply to you.
- Make up a story together about one of their toys. You write for them, repeating the sentences as you write. When the story is complete they can draw pictures to go with it.
- Buy stickers of a favourite film or TV programme and make a book about it.