Children’s writing skills develop over time and each at their own rate. Skills typically develop in this order:

- Random scribbles
- Controlled scribbles
- Drawing to communicate
- Writing to tell a story – as told to an adult
- Letter-like forms to tell a story
- Creative spelling – they spell words how they think they sound
- Correct spelling and writing of words

Encouraging your child to write often will help develop strong skill sets.

Help your child write letters to family or friends. Writing thank you notes or describing an activity are a fun way to start. These can be written in an email or stamped letter.

Ask your child to create lists that will help them or the family. They can make lists for:

1. Going to the grocery store
2. Errands that need to be run
3. Tasks that need to be done inside or outside the house
4. Gifts they would like to be given for special occasions

Create a special place for your child’s writing materials – a drawer or a box will do. Collect materials for your child to use as they practice writing, such as paper, envelopes, and writing tools.

Did you know...

Read

Yours Truly, Goldilocks, by Alma flor Ada

In this charming version of The Three Bears, fairy tale characters write letters back and forth to each other about parties being held in their neighborhood. Will the wolf spoil the fun? This book is a great example of how words are used to deliver a message.

More by Alma flor Ada:

Choose Books

Books that encourage writing:

Little Red Writing, by Joan Holub
Flat Stanley, by Jeff Brown
Dear Mr. Blueberry, by Simon James
I Wanna New Room, by Karen Kaufman Orloff
The Jolly Postman, by Janet and Alan Ahlberg
Click, Clack, Moo- Cows that Type, by Doreen Cronin

More by Joan Holub:

I Love Saturdays, by Joan Holub
I Love Sundays, by Joan Holub
I Love Amalia, by Joan Holub
With Love Little Red Hen, by Joan Holub

More by Jeff Brown:

I Love Sundays, by Jeff Brown
I Love Saturdays, by Jeff Brown
I Love Amalia, by Jeff Brown
With Love Little Red Hen, by Jeff Brown

More by Simon James:

I Love Sundays, by Simon James
I Love Saturdays, by Simon James
I Love Amalia, by Simon James
With Love Little Red Hen, by Simon James

More by Karen Kaufman Orloff:

I Love Sundays, by Karen Kaufman Orloff
I Love Saturdays, by Karen Kaufman Orloff
I Love Amalia, by Karen Kaufman Orloff
With Love Little Red Hen, by Karen Kaufman Orloff

More by Janet and Alan Ahlberg:

I Love Sundays, by Janet and Alan Ahlberg
I Love Saturdays, by Janet and Alan Ahlberg
I Love Amalia, by Janet and Alan Ahlberg
With Love Little Red Hen, by Janet and Alan Ahlberg

More by Doreen Cronin:

I Love Sundays, by Doreen Cronin
I Love Saturdays, by Doreen Cronin
I Love Amalia, by Doreen Cronin
With Love Little Red Hen, by Doreen Cronin
Talk

Talk with your child about the print they see throughout their daily routine— the cereal box, exit sign, store ad, milk label, etc.

Write

Add writing props to your child’s play. If they’re pretending to cook, give them a cookbook. If they’re playing doctor, create an appointment book or eye chart for them to use. Adding signs, writing tools, and forms for their play gives them opportunities to practice writing skills.


Play

Goldilocks, Goldilocks
(Do the actions for each verse)

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, turn around.

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, touch the ground.

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, knock on the door.
   (knock with hand)

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, eat some porridge.
   (pretend to eat porridge)

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, have a seat.

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, go to sleep.
   (put head on folded hands)

Goldilocks, Goldilocks, run, run, run!

Sing

Mail Carrier’s Song
Write, write, write your cards, And lots of letters, too. I will bring them to your friends, And they will write back soon.

http://stepbystepcc.com/postoffice.html

The Bear Went Over the Mountain
The bear went over the mountain, The bear went over the mountain, The bear went over the mountain, To see what he could see.

The other side of the mountain, The other side of the mountain, The other side of the mountain, Was all that he could see.

The other side of the mountain, Was all that he could see!

To hear the tune of this song, visit: www.kididdles.com, and look under “animal songs.”

At your library...

Don’t have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.

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