



## Did you know... ?

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.

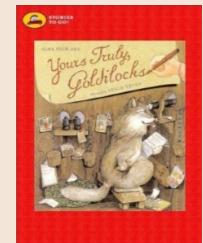
## Here's how...

- ★ 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.

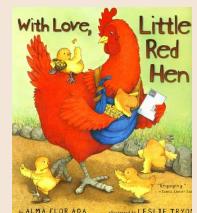
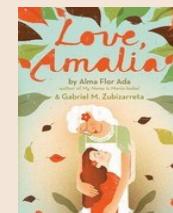
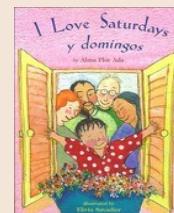
## Read

### ***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.



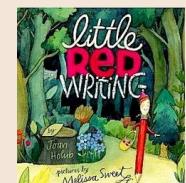
More by Alma flor Ada:



## Choose Books

### **Books that encourage writing:**

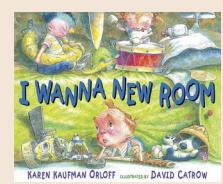
*Little Red Writing*, by Joan Holub



*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

## Talk



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

## 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>

## 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.

[www.kellyskindergarten.com/Dramatic%20Play/dramatic%20play.htm](http://www.kellyskindergarten.com/Dramatic%20Play/dramatic%20play.htm)

## 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!

Material from *The Bilingual Book of Rhymes, Songs, Stories and Fingerplays* by Pam Schiller, Rafael Lara-Alecio, and Beverly J. Irby, ISBN 978-0-87659-2847, is reprinted with permission from Gryphon House, Inc., [www.gryphonhouse.com](http://www.gryphonhouse.com)

### 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](http://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.