

## 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

Encourage your child to write for a variety of different purposes.

## Here's how...



- ✦ 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:
  - Going to the grocery store
  - Errands to run
  - Tasks that need to be done inside or outside the house
  - Gifts they would like to be given for special occasions
- ✦ Collect materials for your child to use as they practice writing, such as paper, envelopes, and writing tools. Create a special place for these writing materials, such as a drawer or box.

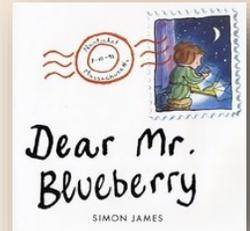
## Read



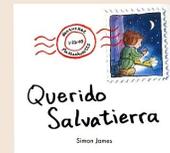
### **Dear Mr. Blueberry, by Simon James**

It's vacation time, so Emily has to write to her teacher for help when she discovers a blue whale living in her pond. Mr. Blueberry answers that she must be mistaken, because whales live in the ocean, not in ponds.

Emily and Mr. Blueberry exchange several letters, and in the process, Emily learns a lot about whales. And Mr. Blueberry learns even more about imagination, faith, and love.



Also available in Spanish



## Choose Books



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

*Little Red Writing*, by Joan Holub

*Flat Stanley*, by Jeff Brown

*Yours Truly, Goldilocks*, by Alma Flor Ada

*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

*A Splendid Friend, Indeed*, by Suzanne Bloom

## 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.

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

## Play



### A Sailor Went to Sea

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea  
To see what he could see, see, see  
But all that he could see, see, see  
Was the deep, dark bottom of the sea, sea, sea.

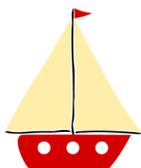
Hear tune: [www.mothersgooseclub.com/videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/](http://www.mothersgooseclub.com/videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/)

**There are lots of ways to make this song a game:**

- Clap each time you sing "see/sea"
- Put hand up to eyes each time you sing "see/sea"
- Sing song faster and faster each time you sing it
- Write the words "see" and "sea" on cards; have your child point to the correct spelling each time they sing the word

For a fun hand-clapping game see <https://youtu.be/rndGYcEBB3U>

To play with vowel sounds see: [www.songsforteaching.com/folk/asailorwenttosea.php](http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/asailorwenttosea.php)



## Sing



### Puff the Magic Dragon

Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea,  
And frolicked in the autumn mist  
in a land called Honah Lee.

Little Jackie Paper love that rascal Puff, and  
brought him strings and sealing wax and other  
fancy stuff. Oh!

Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea,  
And frolicked in the autumn mist  
in a land called Honah Lee.

*(Repeat)*

Together they would travel  
on a boat with billowed sail.

Jackie kept a lookout  
perched on Puff's gigantic tail.

Noble kings and princes  
would bow whene'er they came.

Pirate ships would lower their flags  
when Puff roared out his name. Oh!

Puff the magic dragon lived by the sea  
And frolicked in the autumn mist  
in a land called Honah Lee.

*(Repeat)*

Lyrics by Peter Yarrow, *Peter, Paul and Mary*

**Here entire song: [youtu.be/Y7lmAc3LKWM](https://youtu.be/Y7lmAc3LKWM)**

## At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!