

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 fun ways 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



Scaredy Squirrel, by Mélanie Watt



Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could face all kinds of terrible things. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day his worst nightmare comes true!

Spend more time with Scaredy Squirrel:



More laugh-it-up books from Mélanie Watt:



Choose Books



Books that develop awareness of print:

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc., as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter or making a checklist
- Books with speech or thought bubbles
- Recipe books

Talk



Create an emergency kit for home or for outings. What would be good things include? Ask your child questions such as, "What would you need if you scraped your knee?" "What kinds of things would help pass the time while we wait for the bus?" Help your child draw and label a list, then help her gather those things and put them in a small bag or backpack.

Write



Help your child make a daily schedule using pictures, words, and times. You can even include clock faces if your child is ready to begin learning about telling time with a clock.



Play



Squirrel Song

Tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain"

I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.
I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.
I'll be gathering all the acorns,
I'll be gathering all the acorns,
I'll be gathering all the acorns 'til they're gone.
(Children make collecting motion with their hands)

Additional verses:

And I'll put them all inside my little home...
(Children pretend to place nuts in tree house)

And I'll eat the nuts until the winter's gone...
(Children pretend to eat acorns)

Then I'll do it all again come next fall...
(Children make gathering motion with hands and arms again)

<https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/she-ll-be-comin-round-the-mountain.html/>



Sing



Arts and crafts... Make squirrel feeders by tying sturdy string around several dried corn cobs or pine cones stuffed with unsalted peanut butter and bird seed. Hang from the branches on your trees.

Action Rhyme

Gray Squirrel

(Match actions to words)

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel
shake your bushy tail.

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel
shake your bushy tail.

Wrinkle up your funny nose,
Put a nut between your toes.

Gray Squirrel, Gray Squirrel
shake your bushy tail.



At your library ...



Libraries offer fun programs for the whole family! Check your local library's website to see what programs and events are happening this spring, such as El día de los niños (Children's Day), Earth Day, or summer reading kickoff events.