

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 ...

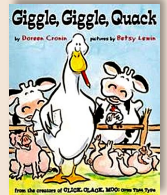


- ✦ Writing thank you notes or describing an activity are fun ways to start. These can be written in an email or stamped letter.
- ✦ Ask your child to create lists that will help them or the family. They can make lists for:
 - Going to the grocery store
 - Errands to run
 - Tasks that need to be done 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

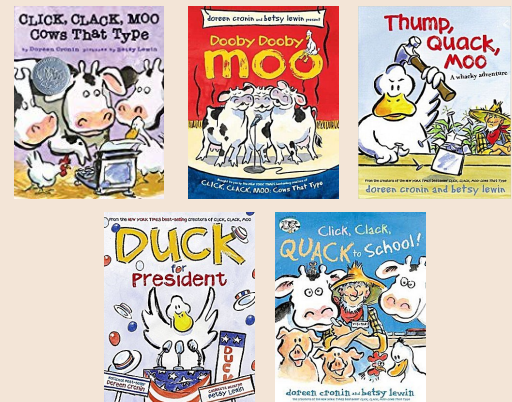


Giggle, Giggle, Quack by Doreen Cronin



Farmer Brown is going on vacation. He asks his brother, Bob, to take care of the animals. "But keep an eye on Duck. He's trouble." Bob follows the instructions in Farmer Brown's notes exactly. He orders pizza with anchovies for the hens, bathes the pigs with bubble bath, and lets the cows choose a movie... Is that giggling he hears?

More fun on Farmer Brown's farm:



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



Children this age often don't know how to spell the words they want to write. Instead of telling them how to spell the word, you can help them become stronger writers by asking them what sounds they hear, and ask what letter or group of letters might make that sound. It's okay if they aren't exactly perfect. If children become too anxious about the need to spell words correctly at this age, it can prevent them from being creative or wanting to write longer sentences or stories.

Write



Children can practice the power of writing by helping you make grocery or "to do" lists, writing invitations, greeting cards and thank you notes, etc. They can print by hand or type on a computer. They can even use an old typewriter!

Play



Homemade Bingo Boards

You can make your own bingo boards at home, using words your child can begin reading on their own, such as family names, colors and numbers, shapes, or words suggested by their teacher.

You can draw out the boxes with a ruler, or use the internet to search for a free bingo card maker. Use pennies, cereal, or other small objects to cover the words when they're called.

B	I	N	G	O
red	yellow	pink	black	brown
blue	green	orange	purple	white

Sing



Six Little Ducks

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Fat ones, skinny ones, fair ones too.

But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

Quack, quack, quack! Quack, quack, quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

Down to the river they would go,
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, to and fro.

But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

Quack, quack, quack! Quack, quack, quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

See a video from the Washington County Cooperative Library System at <http://tinyurl.com/6littleducks>

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!