

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...

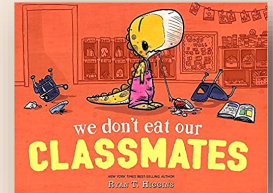


- ✦ Writing thank you notes or describing an activity are fun ways to start. These can be written in an email or stamped letter.
- ✦ Ask your child to create lists that will help them or the family. They can make lists for:
 - Going to the grocery store
 - Errands to run
 - Tasks that need to be done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

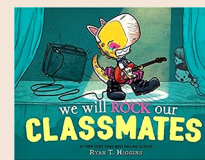
Read



***We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, by Ryan T. Higgins**



It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! Young children will gobble up this laugh-out-loud story from award-winning author-illustrator Ryan T. Higgins.



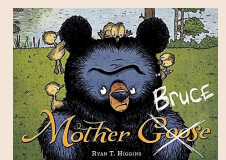
Have more fun with Penelope in this new story, *We Will Rock Our Classmates*.

Look for other Higgins books at your library:

Mother Bruce (series)

Be Quiet!

Wilfred



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



Point out the word bubbles to your child and explain that they are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks and type, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

Write



Let your child practice using word bubbles and punctuation by drawing a picture, then writing down what the characters are saying.



Sing



If You're a Hungry Dinosaur

(Tune: *If You're Happy and You Know It*)
(Match actions to words)

If you're a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth,

If you're a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth.

If you're a hungry dinosaur,

then give a great big roar (*ROAR!*)

If you're a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth.

Additional verses:

... show your claws

... wiggle your tail

... munch a tree

If you've just finished reading *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* by Ryan T. Higgins, you could end the song with "If you're a hungry dinosaur, spit out your classmate!"

Hear tune at www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it

Recognizing Reading Problems



Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

If you think your kindergartener is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!

From www.readingrockets.org/article/recognizing-reading-problems (2018)

At your library...

DayByDayID.org
STORYTIMES ONLINE



Your library, in cooperation with the Idaho Commission for Libraries, offers free "storytimes online" every day of the year. Each day features an online book to read with your child, as well as songs, rhymes, fingerplays, videos, crafts, and other activities that you can access from a computer, tablet, or smartphone.