

Becoming a Writer

In February 2017 we held two 'Writing Workshops' for parents. The aim of the workshops was to inform parents about the stages a child goes through on their journey to becoming a writer and ways that parents could support at home to enhance these skills.

Please refer to the document 'Writing - a Physical Process' in our Curriculum section under 'Literacy'. You will find lots of other useful suggestions in this section as well!

This is some of the positive feedback we received.

Ellarose.

It was a really informative and interesting workshop. Very pleased I attended and the goody bag was a lovely touch as I went through all the things with Ellarose. She wanted to do the peg & pompoms over and over and we practised how to hold a pen whilst drawing on the etch a sketch. I will definitely be doing the "busy fingers" activities more regular and get her to help me more when I'm doing certain tasks.

Alfie.

I really enjoyed the session, lots of new & helpful information and it's great to have some new ideas for activities at home. Both Alfie & Tilly enjoyed picking up the pom poms with pegs. We have also started to use much bigger pieces of paper (lining paper leftovers) for drawing on. I'm also very keen to make the play doh at the weekend.

Cassie.

It was a great workshop. Cassie has loved playing with the pom poms. We have used large surfaces to draw on and have tried to give a purpose to Cassie's writing – e.g. Shopping Lists, Birthday Cards.

Nice to see the range of activities that the children can do to help with their writing

Oliver.

I found the course very helpful; sometimes it's hard to know where I can help develop Oliver's skills. I found out lots of hints and tips to help progress his writing skills. We have been doing lots of colouring, baking, painting, pairing socks, Lego, mega blocks and much more.

I've noticed he wants to use pens/ crayons a lot more as his confidence is growing.

Priscilla.

Thanks for an amazing session, well assured that I will implement all that I've learned. Looking forward to the next session.

Thomas.

Really good session. We have been trying writing shopping lists & bringing them with us when shopping-which Tommy has enjoyed. We were already writing names in cards so have continued to do this. We have encouraged Tommy by discussing what he has been drawing and mark making on different sized paper boxes and a large cardboard dinosaur called James. Tommy wanted to write the names James.

Looking forward to the next session.
Thanks again.

David.

The session "Becoming a Writer" has made me understand that learning to write is a journey and, to be able to write, we need good physical skills.

We used the peg from the goody bag to pick small toys and pasta, the brush and water to write on the fence and sponge to clean afterwards.

We have been practicing doing buttons, making cakes, folding paper, writing names, using pegs ,pouring water, jigsaws , cutting, Lego, cleaning windows and David was really excited to try new ideas and enjoyed using different tools to write.

This session helped me understand more about learning to write and gave me lots of tips on how to make it more interesting for David.

Anjali

Thank you for the ideas and the goody bag. We understand better that writing is a long term experience. Anjali has just started with the shoulder and elbow development, but we can now support her better knowing what she is doing here and what we can do at home.

Max & Kitty.

I had no idea that pegging up washing and sweeping the floor could help Max & Kitty with writing.

Since the session they both regularly help sweeping although not much goes in to the dustpan! I now know its benefiting them in a different way.

Kitty loves pegging up the washing, Max finds it a bit tricky but I know to let him have a go as before we just counted the pegs.

We spend much more time now talking about the pictures they have drawn and about what they think they have drawn. Max has started to draw faces and Kitty is starting to draw letters and ask me is this a letter?

Kikelomo.

Kikelomo has written her invites for her party, even folded the invite, placed in an envelope and wrote their 'names' on it. She loves dressing her dolls, being creative using hair bands as an accessory belt. One of her favourite things is to take clothes out the washing machine and hang them on the line.

She is able to hold the peg with one hand but uses the other hand to attach the item to the peg. She loves using the dustpan and brush. She has a good grip of the vacuum cleaner considering the weight.

Thomas.

"Another great workshop- Thank you".

What surprised me was how all the daily/ weekly tasks we undertake are helping Thomas with his writing from making cakes, doing jigsaws, building with Lego, sweeping leaves to even having a bath.

We've added a notebook to the goodie bag so now when were out and about well be able to capture what we see.

