**Ideas & Activities to promote writing for Primary-aged children**

There are lots of ways to make writing fun and meaningful at home! Here are a few ideas you could try:

* Help your child write a letter to their favourite author.  Correspondence can often be sent to an author’s publisher (whose details can be obtained on the internet) who will pass it on.
* After making a cake or doing a craft activity, challenge children to write the recipe or instructions for someone else to use.
* Let your child write their own Christmas cards, invitations, thank you letters, cards or e-mails to friends or relatives. Invite them to help you write the shopping list or to record game scores.



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* Create silly sentences or tongue twisters using alliteration (a group of words that all begin with the same sound) e.g. Silly Sam swam the smelly swamp
* Make writing special by providing a variety of ‘cool’ pens and pencils, envelopes, stampers and put their writing on display around the home.
* Cut out words from a newspaper or magazine. Can they use the words to write a sentence?
* Help them to organise and sequence their writing by asking them to talk about their ideas or to draw a sequence of simple pictures to show how the main events in a story might be organised.

**Word-building games**

Games are a great way to bond and to learn a whole range of skills, including turn-taking, counting, using vocabulary to describe or developing a strategy to win. Here are some ideas of games that aid word-building or vocabulary, which in turn will improve writing skills:

* Scrabble – now available in several versions, including ‘Junior’, ‘Harry Potter’
* Boggle
* Guess Who (developing descriptive vocabulary)
* Up Words
* Charades
* Headbandz



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**Writing Competitions**

The Canterbury Tales writing competition is open to 5-18-year olds and the 2021 theme is ‘be careful what you wish for’! Children can choose to enter a story, a poem or a character description and the deadline is 31st January 2021. [Click here](http://chaucer.org.uk/the-canterbury-tales-writing-competition-2020-21-be-careful-what-you-wish-for/)

for more information.

Keep your eye out on our website for other competitions!

**Here for you**

If you’d like more ideas or advice to support writing for the child that you’re fostering, feel free to contact Sara Martin, Early Years and Primary Specialist at Sutton Virtual School on [sara.martin@cognus.org.uk](mailto:sara.martin@cognus.org.uk).