Summer Writing Activities - 2018

Just as you read to and with your children in the summer, so you can support writing through the following activities. You will certainly come up with some of your own as well.

Books to support writing:
Amy the Red Panda Is Writing the Best Story in the World by Colleen AF Venable
Ralph Tells a Story by Abby Hanlon
Any Questions by Mary-Louise Gay
Any Ideas by Adam Lehrhaupt
Little Red Writing by Joan Holub
The Plot Chickens by Mary Jane Auch
Miss Brooks’ Story Nook by Barbara Bottner
Rocket Writes a Story by Tad Hills
The Desperate Dog Writes Again by Eileen Christelow
Kindergarten Diary by Antoinette Portis
Thank you Miss Doover by Robin Pulver
The Perfect Gift by Mary Newell Depalma
Amelia’s Notebook by Marissa Moss
Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary
Lizzie Bennet’s Diary by Liza Cortright
Friendship Over by Julie Sternberg
Dear America Series from Scholastic
Wallace’s Lists by Barbara Bottner
Oliver’s Must-Do List by Susan Taylor Brown
**Stella Writes Set** by Janiel Wagstaff

**The Jolly Postman** by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

**Can I Be Your Dog** by Troy Cummings

### Entering Kindergarten:
- Notice and talk about the print in the environment, e.g. traffic signs, signs in shop windows, graffiti.
- Show your children how you use writing. Write messages to family members, shopping lists, letters and greeting cards.
- Provide a place for your children to write. A small desk, an easel-type blackboard and a notice board for displaying writing, plus a range of writing materials such as scrap paper, sample greeting cards, crayons, envelopes and little notebooks for experimental writing.
- Display and allow your children to display their name.
- When your children ask about the letters of the alphabet, call the letters by name not the sound they represent.
- Look at and talk about alphabet books together.
- Provide magnetic or plastic letters for your children’s to play.
- Write messages to your children.
- Play rhyming games.

### Entering 1st and 2nd Grades:
- Write messages back and forth with your children. Don’t focus on spelling, but rather on meaning.
- Model conventions aloud as you write, e.g. ‘Let me see, does this word look right? Let me try another way...I’ll leave a space here before I write the next word.’
- Use a family message board and encourage your child to use it.
- Have a written conversation with your children.
- Provide a place for your children to write. A small desk, an easel-type blackboard and a notice board for displaying writing plus a range of writing materials such as scrap paper, sample greeting cards, crayons, envelopes and little notebooks for experimental writing.
- Let your children write text to match photos from summer activities.
- Pick a topic or theme and with your children compose an alphabet book.
- Play games using sounds, letters and words.
- At the beginning of the summer, shop for a special journal with your children.

### Entering 3rd Grade:
- Start a family diary to record jokes, funny sayings, weekend activities and significant events. Share reading the diary with family members.
- Read your children's writing drafts and comment on the things you like about it.
- Read a variety of texts to your children so they begin to understand the range of written genres possible.
Give gifts that encourage writing. These could include a range of books to read, notebooks, diaries, stationery, fancy pens and pencils.

Make sure your children has access to a dictionary. Picture dictionaries and junior dictionaries are comfortable.

Play word games like Scrabble and Boggle.

Write plays together to perform for others.

**Entering 4th and 5th Grades:**

- Praise your children’s writing efforts and respond to the message. Show that you enjoy and value their writing.
- Ensure that your children have access to a dictionary they are comfortable using.
- When you read aloud to your children, stop to discuss the author’s word choice, tone, and point of view.
- Encourage your children to use writing to get things done e.g. email to politicians, letters to the editor, notes to grandparents
- Encourage your children to keep diaries, write about summer adventures, take photos and add text to experiences
- Create blogs with your children
- Have your children write and illustrate picture books for younger friends and relatives.
- Cook and bake with your children and let them write their own cook books with memories.