



Literacy Tips for supporting your child at home

1. Read everyday: reading and writing go hand in hand; skills in reading help skills in writing. Reading as little as a page a day can make a big difference to a child's writing skills, as reading is effectively seeing modelled, high quality writing
2. Keep reading to, and with, your child, until you both come across a story, or a series of books, that your child loves. This will foster a love for reading, and most probably, a desire to write good stories themselves.
3. Model writing for your child, for real purposes, such as the shopping list, or a card for someone, or a note, or a to do list for the day
4. Establish a quiet writing space for your child, with an appropriately sized chair and desk, an assortment of good writing materials: paper, pencils, eraser, colours for illustrating, coloured card/cover paper, good lighting
5. Encourage your child to write for real reasons: cards, letters, shopping lists, to-do lists, notes, reminders for tasks or chores, checklists for things to do
6. Encourage written communication with special family members or friends who live afar; "pen pals"; how exciting is it for your child to check the letter box and find an envelope addressed to them!
7. Support an increase in your child's vocabulary: the words that they use and understand. Encourage them to ask you the meaning of unfamiliar words, and model the use of rich vocabulary, and not the use of "child-friendly" words. Practise using rich, descriptive language with them when observing things from a walk, or from in the car; "Look at that huge, blue, sparkly lake!"
8. If you do try any of these ideas for writing development at home, and find that one, or some, work brilliantly for your mini writer, please email me.

Happy writing!