



GUIDANCE

for Parents, Guardians and Educators



A notebook can be the back of an envelope, a piece of printed paper, an exercise book, a smartphone, iPad, or even a camera or voice recorder. Writing

doesn't have to be typed, offer coloured pencils, pen or chalk. What's important is allowing for a private, personal space in which to create.



Writing and reading go hand in hand. Comics, novels, scripts and songs are all valid choices.

To spark a conversation about writing try asking: How does the writing make you feel? Did you imagine a place or become aware of an experience you've never had before? How did the writing do that? What did you love and what did you dislike? What would you change? What's important is to encourage and support personal choices.



Imagine, scribble write.

Encourage the recording of random notes, dreams, fears and inspirations. Ideas can be explored through illustrations

or doodles. A writer may wish to invent worlds, talking animals, heroes or villains. The notepad is their private space; encourage writing without judgment. What's important is to nurture a sense of freedom in creativity and a spirit of adventure.



A notebook (or voice recorder

or notes app) is a useful tool for observing, being inspired by and documenting the world. But it's no good if the notebook stays

at home! Writing doesn't only happen on the page, it happens in the subconscious as writers work, play and dream. Encourage imaginative exploration of real spaces: school, home, the park, and the town are all possible jumping off points for a story, poem or song. Give support and positive feedback to writers who want to carry notebooks with them so they can jot down ideas whenever inspiration strikes.



Pride and self-motivation arise

spontaneously when writers follow their own interests. Try using some of the following prompts to encourage an

emerging writer: What have you enjoyed writing the most? Do you enjoy sports, computers, being in nature or just hanging out with friends? Would you like to write about your favourite hobby? Or perhaps you'd like to have a go at writing something in the voice of a film character that you love? What's important is to enable the discovery and exploration of personal interests, hobbies and passions.



Encouraging the daily practice

of writing is the greatest gift that you can give the emerging writer. What helps make the habit?

A favourite time or place for writing? An hour in the evening in lieu of screen time? Carrying the notebook on the bus ride to school? Not every writer has the privilege of a dedicated writing desk or daily hour of free time. But that's ok; J.K. Rowling had the idea for Harry Potter while sitting on a delayed train. What's important is creating a ritual and sticking to it.



As the writing starts to take shape,

reflect on the purpose of the project. Who is the writing for? Is this a fun private experiment or something to craft and share?

Can the piece be transformed into another medium or format? When a project is finished, the author may wish to consider publishing online, entering a competition or contributing to a book. Let writers set their own place and try not to rush anyone into sharing too soon. You could, instead, ask the writer to talk about their experience of writing and their plans for further development. Confidence comes through freedom to develop an artistic voice and vision.



There are many milestones within

the writing process, all of which deserve to be celebrated. Filling a notebook is a big achievement – all those words! But smaller

steps along the way, like a writer completing their first story or poem, can create a strong sense of achievement and keep words flowing. Not everyone's milestones are the same, but it's always a good idea to find cause for celebration.

The most important thing is to encourage enjoyment of the process, even if it is sometimes hard. Nurture a desire to write a little bit every day or when inspiration strikes.

Dare to Write? is here to inspire a lifelong adventure in writing. When a writer has filled their first notebook, a great reward is to buy them a new one. Rewards, achievement stickers and certificates can provide a motivating confidence boost, but most important is to honour the pride that comes from personal achievement.



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