



## Writing Activities for kids at Home

1. **Make a menu.**  
Let your child design and write the menu for a family dinner(s).
2. **Write Lists.**  
Let your child write the grocery list as you dictate what you need. They can also write lists to pack for a trip, plan a busy week, and prepare for back-to-school, summer activities, or the holidays.
3. **Write a Letter to Grandparents/Relatives/Friends.**  
Keep a supply of notecards and stationary on hand for letter writing.
4. **Set a Goal.**  
Teach your child the valuable skill of writing personal goals.
5. **Write a Picture Story.**  
Draw a line about 2/3 down a sheet a paper. Let the child draw a picture of anything they want to at the top. Then, guide them to write a story about the picture at the bottom. Let them write unfamiliar words phonetically.
6. **Newspaper Reporter Activity.**  
Your child can play and learn the 5 W's (Who, What, Where, When, Why) of writing with this activity. Have child listen to news story and complete worksheet with the 5 W's.
7. **Use Writing Prompts.**  
You will need some ideas to help your child get started on a creative home writing activity.
8. **Play with Poetry.**

# Food Critic Notebook

Review the food!

**W**hat you need:

- spiral notebook
- pen or pencil

**What to do:**

1. Discuss the role of restaurant critics with your child. What kinds of things do they consider when they write a restaurant review? Do they just discuss the food, or are there other things they might describe as well?
2. Make a list of the kinds of things that a reader might want to learn from a restaurant review. Possibilities include: the restaurant name, location, atmosphere, service, type of food and quality, price range, and rating.
3. Invite your child to start a food critic notebook of her own. Every time you visit a restaurant, encourage her to write a review. What does she think her friends would want to know about a restaurant? Is it the same as what her friends' parents might want to know?
4. Set aside a section in the notebook for reviewing dishes cooked at home. Your child can record her own thoughts plus the opinions of other family members. Her review could also include nutritional information, preparation time, cost, and recommendations for other foods to serve with the dish. The notebook can even help serve as a guide for meal planning in the future.

**Learning benefits:**

- provides practice with descriptive writing
- develops organizational skills

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Five W's Chart

Fill in each row with details that answer the question.

<b>What</b> happened?
<b>Who</b> was there?
<b>Why</b> did it happen?
<b>When</b> did it happen?
<b>Where</b> did it happen?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Name Poem

A Name Poem or Acrostic Poem uses a name or word to begin each line in a poem.

For example:

<p><b>John</b></p> <p><b>John</b> is an athlete</p> <p><b>On</b> Saturdays he likes to sleep in</p> <p><b>His</b> favorite food is pizza</p> <p><b>Never</b> call him Johnny</p>
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Your poem can be your name, a name of a famous person, a sport or hobby, a state or country. You decide.

Practice writing your poem here.

- What is your name or topic? \_\_\_\_\_

- Write some words that describe your topic.

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- Draft of Poem

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# Write Your Own Ending

How would you end that fairy tale?

**W**hat you need:

- books of fairy tales (optional)
- paper
- pen or pencil

What to do: 1. With your child, think of a favorite fairy tale or folktale. This could be a current favorite, or something your child loved when she was younger.

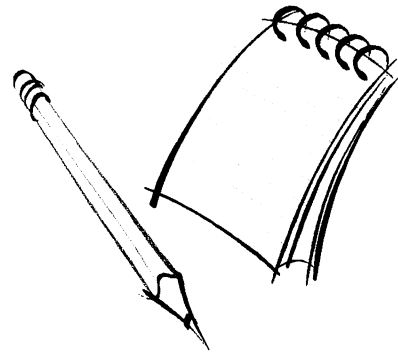
2. How did the tale end? Challenge your child to think of a different ending. This could be a different ending altogether or a description of what happens later. For instance, Cinderella decides she prefers to return to her stepmother's house to help out, or the Three Little Pigs later go into the home security business.

3. Invite your child to write and even illustrate her new version of the story.

4. Finally, she can use this as a script to act out the new twist on a familiar tale.

Learning Benefits

- sparks creativity
- develops writing skills



## **Writing Topics**

**The best way to get into writing is simply to write...and write... and write...freely. This practice helps you develop a feel for writing. To get started, children need a topic to write about. Below, you will find lists of ideas to serve as starting points for personal or journal writing.**

### **Grade 1**

**A special birthday  
Noise times and quiet times  
I like to make...  
Big pets and small pets  
Don't litter  
I'm happy when...  
My adventure  
What if I was 10 years old?**

**Friendly places  
I know a lot about...  
Picnic fun  
What I will/will not share?  
I rode on...  
I wonder why...  
What makes me laugh?  
My favorite foods...**

### **Grade 2**

**Games I play with friends  
How to make new friends  
A "knock, knock" joke  
What I like about math  
An important person I know  
Something I don't understand  
Words I think are funny  
Good things about my  
neighborhood**

**My new friend  
Foods I don't like...  
Games we play...  
My favorite subject  
Sometimes I wish...  
After-school games  
My favorite book(s)  
Things that could be  
better about my  
neighborhood**

### Grade 3

Amazing facts I know  
Fun outdoor activities  
A sport I'm good at  
Things I'd like to change

Things hard to believe  
A great place to go  
My favorite subject  
What I like about where I live

The best house pets  
A place I'd like to visit  
My best birthday  
Book characters I'd like  
to meet  
A helpful person I've met  
Having fun at school  
My least favorite subject  
Things I would like to  
change

### Grades 4-5

Staying at a friend's house  
What if we suddenly had to move?  
Do I want to be famous?  
I'll never eat another...  
This school really needs...  
The first day of school is the  
worst/best  
My first school memories  
What is important to me?

A special secret place  
Talk about being scared!  
Creepy, crawly things  
My biggest surprise  
Doing homework  
My best day  
I don't understand why...  
A terrible storm  
A song that means a lot  
to me

## Grades 6-8

**Why weekends should be longer**

**My best class**

**My chores**

**A dedicated teacher/coach**

**If only I would have listened!**

**I'm principal for the day. Here's  
my schedule of events**

**If I could be someone else I  
would be and why...**

**I the future I see myself as/doing...**

**What a new student**

**should know about my  
school**

**A typical lunch hour**

**My favorite...**

**My best friend...why...**

**How could TV be better?**

**What I have lost or broken  
that belongs to  
someone else**

**I never want to...**

## Grades 9-12

**The hardest things I've ever done**

**What do I worry about?**

**We all make mistakes**

**My first encounter with a bully**

**Something this school really needs...**

**Morning madness**

**Putting my foot in my mouth**

**When I was a discipline problem**

**We all make mistakes**

**I take some things too seriously**

**Who knows me best?**

**My worst vacation**

**An unforgettable  
dream**

**Coping with siblings**

**Hanging out**

**Putting my foot in  
my mouth**



## My Reflections