

WRITING

AT SCHOOL

If your child is meeting the Writing Standard by the end of Year 5...

...they will be working towards writing at curriculum level 3.

Your child's writing will show how they are thinking about, as well as describing, their experiences and the information that they have got from talking, listening and reading about topics in all areas of the curriculum.

Writing at this level might look like this:

To meet the standard your child will be learning to:

- use different ways to think about, plan, organise and communicate experiences, information and ideas
- use words and phrases that are about a topic and chosen for the audience
- choose the best way to express their message or ideas in writing
- organise their writing, use detail to support main ideas and paragraphs to group their ideas
- improve the clarity and impact of their writing, often after feedback from others
- check their own writing for correct spelling, grammar and punctuation
- choose the best way to publish their writing, including computer technology, print, charts and diagrams.



Slowly but Steadily I climbed the stairs, one, two, three. I let my shaky legs guide me to my destination. Looking down I knew I couldn't do it! Ignoring the fact I was 50 feet from the ground, I pushed my feet to the edge. Click! That was the signal, I lowered myself so that I was level with the floor. Ok go! The words echoed in my head like a bell. A second later I was half way down slipping and sliding like an eel. Touch down. Finally I was down. Slowly but steadily I climbed. the stairs, one, two, three. I looked behind me a, bed of arms were being formed.

This example of student writing has been reproduced by kind permission of the writer © Crown 2009.

In this writing, the child has used:

- a series of details at the beginning that aim to show the author's feelings and trigger the emotions of the reader
- similes (talk about the similarities of two things using "as" or "like") to give the reader a clearer picture – e.g. "echoed in my head like a bell".

Support your child...

As parents, family and whānau you play a big part in your child's learning every day, and you can support and build on what they learn at school too.

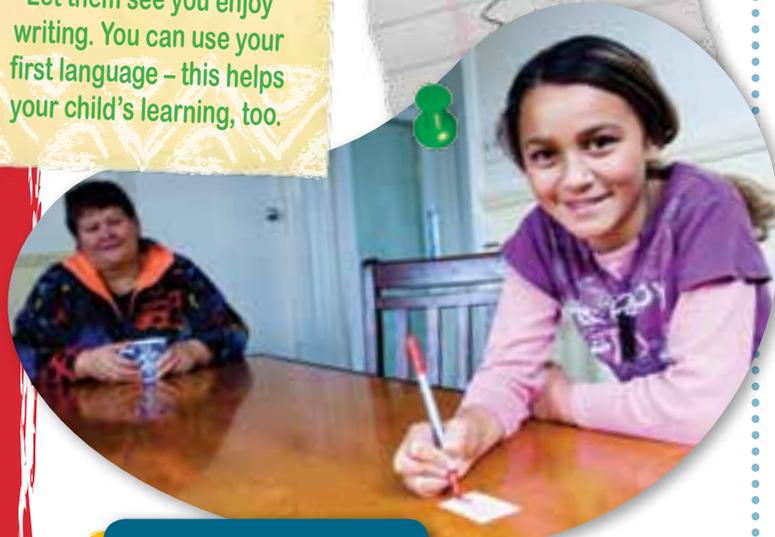


WRITING AT HOME

Make writing fun

- ✿ Writing about their heroes, sports events, tipuna (ancestors), hobbies and interests helps your child to stay interested in what they are writing about.
- ✿ Play word games and do puzzles together to help your child learn more about words and spelling.
- ✿ Have interesting paper and pens available or help them make a special book to write in.
- ✿ Write to your child, or give them jokes, cartoons or short articles from the newspaper you think they'll like to read.
- ✿ Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write – look words up in the dictionary or on the Internet, or talk to family and whānau members to learn more about the background and the whakapapa (origins) of the words.

Be a role model. Show your child that you write for all sorts of reasons. Let them see you enjoy writing. You can use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.



Talk about your child's writing

- ✿ Talk about ideas and information they are going to write about. Talk about experiences, diagrams, graphs, pictures, photos and material that your child is planning to use for school work. Discussing the information and main ideas can help their planning for writing and their understanding, too.
- ✿ Share enjoyment of their writing. Read and talk about the writing that your child does. Give praise for things they have done well to support their learning.
- ✿ Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write.
- ✿ Share your own writing with your child – lists, planning for family events or an email. You can help them to see that you too use writing for different purposes.

Write for a reason

- ✿ Encourage your child to write emails, invitations, thank you letters, poems, stories or postcards to friends, family and whānau – make it fun.
- ✿ Ask your child who they would like to write to. It is helpful if what they write is given or sent to others.
- ✿ Help them to write about their experiences, family and friends or holidays.
- ✿ A diary or journal – on paper or on a computer – can help your child to write about their experiences and their own feelings about things that have happened at school, at home, in the world, on the marae, at sports events and on TV.

Keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, anytime.

Talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand something they are writing about, ask them to explain.

Work together...

Help support your child's learning by building a good relationship with your child's teacher, finding out how your child is doing and working together to support their learning.