

WRITING

AT SCHOOL

If your child is meeting the Writing Standard after two years at school...

...they will be writing at curriculum level 1.

To meet the standard your child will be learning to:

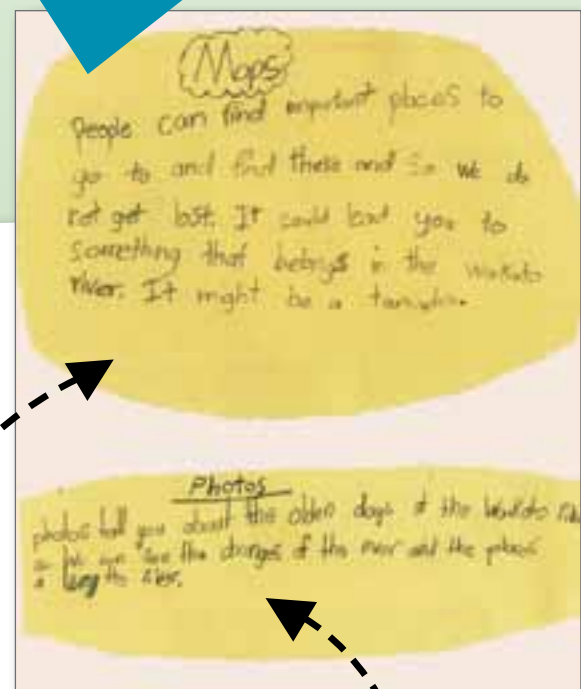
- write stories and other kinds of writing that they can use at school and at home. This includes simple instructions, explanations of what happens and the way it happens, simple descriptions of people, and of things they have done and seen, know about or are making up
- use full stops, question marks and capital letters most of the time
- spell many words correctly, and try writing new words using what they know about other similar words
- write longer sentences and use simple connecting words ("like", "and") to join sentences together.

In this writing, the child has used:

- descriptions of ideas they are learning in social sciences so that someone else can understand
- several sentences with different beginnings, and understands the importance of an interesting title



Writing at this level might look like this:



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

- many correctly-spelt words and has included some special words that are really important for their topic ("taniwha", "Waikato", "olden days").

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.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

WRITING

AT HOME

Make writing fun

- Encourage your child to write – on paper or on the computer. It is OK for you to help and share the writing. Give lots of praise.
- Enjoy the message and don't make your child anxious about spelling or neatness.
- Make a photo book and get your child to write a title.
- Scrapbooks are fun, too. Old magazine or newspaper pictures about a favourite subject, dogs, your family, motorbikes or the latest toy craze, pasted on to blank pages – with room for captions or stories, too.



Play with words. Thinking of interesting words and discussing new ones can help increase the words your child uses when they write. Look up words in the dictionary or on the Internet or talk to family and whānau to find out more about the meaning and the whakapapa (origins) of the words.



Give them reasons to write

Help your child to:

- write lists – 'Things I need from the shop', 'Games to play when I am bored', 'Things I want to do in the holidays'. The last one can be cut up and go into a box or bag for a lucky dip when the holidays finally arrive
- write out recipes or instructions for other people to follow (especially fun if the instructions are for an adult)
- keep a diary, especially if you are doing something different and exciting. Your child can draw the pictures or stick in photos. Their diary could be a webpage on the computer
- write letters, cards, notes and emails to friends and family and the Tooth Fairy – you might write replies sometimes, too
- cut out letters from old magazines and newspapers to make messages
- write secret messages for others to find in their lunch box or under their pillow.

Display their work.
Be proud of it.
Share it with others.

Talk about their writing

- Make up a different ending for a favourite story to use for reading together.
- Ask them to write about pictures they draw. Get them to tell you the story.
- Keep writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.

Don't worry if your child's letters are sometimes backwards or words are misspelt at this age. The important thing is that they have fun writing at home and are making an effort.

PLAY

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.