

WRITING

AT SCHOOL

If your child is meeting the Writing Standard by the end of Year 4...

...they will be writing at curriculum level 2.

Your child will be writing a variety of material to support their learning in all areas of the curriculum.

To meet the standard your child will be learning to:

- use their writing to think about, record and communicate experiences, ideas and information
- write by themselves for different purposes
- know that their writing needs to be suited to the audience
- read and change their writing to improve it, most of the time
- notice mistakes and correct them in their writing (spelling, grammar, punctuation), most of the time
- publish their writing in a variety of ways including using computers, cameras, illustrations, and diagrams.



Writing at this level might look like this:

In this writing, the child has used:

- the opening sentence to grab attention
- simple connecting words ("as", "so", "when") to give the story flow and join the main events
- conversation, and their own thoughts written down, to help give the story a personal voice.

"Mama please go and feed your rabbit!" Mum called from the hallway. "Ohay" I said back and got a bucket to put some grass in for Aroha (my rabbit). So there I was getting grass for Aroha and as I was about to leave I saw a ram. It was approaching me. I saw it stare at me a scary look like it was going to hurt me. I dropped the bucket and ran. I glanced back and it was chasing me. I was so close to the fence so I started climbing it. The ram caught my pants when I was almost over. I screamed as it pulled me to the ground. But it finally let go so I jumped up, grabbed the bucket, chucked it over the fence then I climbed over the fence before the ram could get me. I lay on the grass relieved that I was safe. I looked in the bucket nothing. "Oh well" I said "she'll just have to put up with no grass tonight". As I walked back home I glanced back. I saw the ram. It was staring at me. I quickly turned away. I was safe.

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

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

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S WRITING

Write for fun

- ✿ Writing about their heroes, sports events, tīpuna (ancestors), hobbies and interests helps your child to stay interested in what they are writing about.
- ✿ Help your child to:
 - leave messages in sand on the beach
 - send a message in a bottle
 - do code crackers, word puzzles, crosswords, word finds – these are all fun to do together.
- ✿ Make up a story or think of a pakiwaitara (legend) and act it out with costumes and music. Write down the names of the characters or tīpuna (ancestors).
- ✿ If you or someone in your family has a computer, encourage your child to use it to write, email and publish or print for pleasure (emails, birthday cards, poems, jokes, letters, pictures with captions). Or you could use a computer at the library.

Talk about your child's writing

- ✿ Get your child to talk about their writing and share it.
- ✿ Cut out words and letters to make stories, codes, poems, puzzles and more...
- ✿ Play word games together.
- ✿ 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 with family/whānau to find out more about where the words come from.

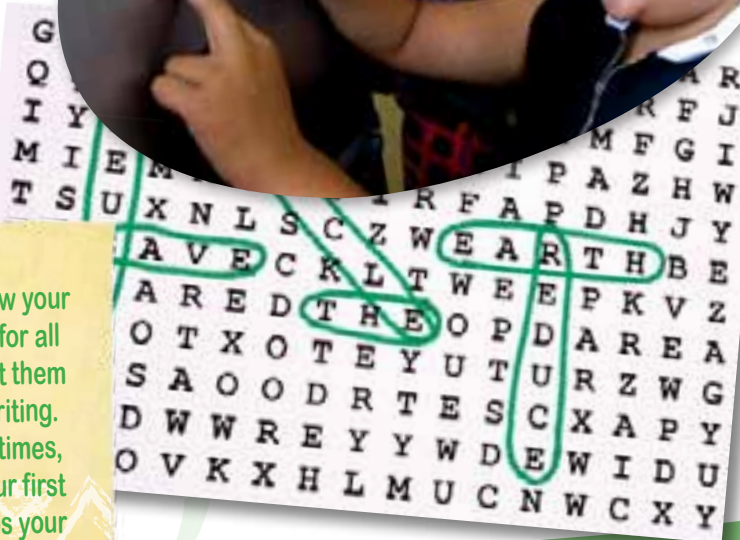
Talk about what your child writes. Be interested. If you don't understand what their story is about, ask them to tell you more about it. Use questions they will want to answer.

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

Write for a reason

- ✿ Get your child to help write the shopping list, invitation lists for family events, menus for special dinners, thank-you cards when someone does something nice.
- ✿ Postcards are a good size for a sentence or two and they are cheap to post, too.
- ✿ Have a special place to keep your child's writing at home (notice board, fridge, folder). You might frame a piece of writing and hang it up, too.

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



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.

www.minedu.govt.nz/Parents