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# WRITING AND SPELLING: LEARNING AT HOME

## WRITING AND SPELLING IDEAS

### Read together

Read as much as you can with your children. There are many things you can read including newspapers, magazines, comics and books. These all help to build vocabulary skills.

### Write together

Help your children write lists when they play, such as writing down appointments and shopping lists. Make thumb prints into cartoon characters and write conversations in speech bubbles. Write captions under photos in photo books.

**It's important to remember that children progress at different rates. Be patient, positive and supportive, and be sure to praise them for having a go even if they get the answers wrong. If you are concerned about your children's progress, talk with their teachers.**

### Making words

See how many words can be made from one large word using only the letters in that word, for example *together* can make the words *he, get, greet, there, otter* and *other*. See how many words you can find that read the same from the front and the back, such as *dad, pup* and *madam*. These are called palindromes.

### Word games

- Play *Junior Scrabble®* and *Boggle®*.
- Try *What word am I?* Think of a word, for example *batman*. Fill in one letter in the right place, such as *\_ \_ t \_ \_ \_*. Ask your children to guess what the word might be. If their guess is incorrect, fill in another letter, such as *\_ a t \_ a \_*. Continue until they guess the whole word.
- Play *Word Detective*. Ask you children questions such as: *Which word rhymes with boat?* and *What is the opposite of long?*



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learning at home factsheets  
at [education.wa.edu.au](http://education.wa.edu.au).

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## Write for a purpose

Make birthday and greeting cards and party invitations. Put all the things that make writing fun into a special coloured box, such as coloured paper, textas, coloured pencils, glitter glue and stickers.

## Words on wheels

- Make up short sentences using the letters on number plates, such as: *BEO* equals *Bob eats oranges*, *CPP* equals *cuddly puppies play*.
- Play word association games where someone says a word and the next person says another word that is connected with it and so on, such as: *beach, fish, chips, seagulls, West Coast Eagles, football, Dockers*.

## Tackling tricky words

Encourage your children to sound words out. Ask them to break the words into chunks or syllables. To begin, clap as you say each syllable, for example birthday is *birth/day* which is two claps and holiday is *hol/i/day* which is three claps.

**Being able to write and spell are processes that take time. Children learn in different ways and at different rates. Be patient and always praise their efforts.**

## Spelling mistakes

Talk about what your children have written and their ideas then talk about their spelling. Talk together about the words that are spelt incorrectly. Talk about the sounds they can hear. Show them how to spell the word. Encourage them to find the correct spelling using a dictionary.

