

Write Every Day: First Grade

Practicing writing will help your child:

- Use proper punctuation and spacing
- Begin to write simple words and sentences to share their ideas
- Become a more confident writer



Ideas to try with your child:

- Write notes to your child and encourage your child to write back to you. For example, you could write a note asking, “What would you like me to pack for your lunch tomorrow?”
- Ask your child to write out the grocery list as you name items that are needed.
- Create a writing center in your child’s room where your child can practice writing notes, lists, stories, and letters. Have a variety of paper, pens, pencils and markers available.

If your child is struggling:

- Help your child make a “Spaceman” to use for proper spacing between words while writing.
<http://lovehugsandladybugs.blogspot.com/2011/08/writing-helper-freebie.html>
- Help your child to make labels for things around the house (the table, her bed, the clock) and then encourage her to use these labels to help her spell words in her writing.

Going further:

- Help your child find a friend or relative to write letters to regularly.
- Create a dialogue journal that you and your child can write in several times a week. Start the dialogue journal by asking your child a question like “Would you rather visit an ocean or a zoo? Why?” Then your child will write the answer to your question and ask you a question back.

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource guide, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children in First Grade** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Start using simple correct letter formation, spacing and punctuation.” *Communicating (Literacy)*, First Grade, pg. 102