



WRITING AND SPELLING: LEARNING AT HOME

WRITING AND SPELLING ARE IMPORTANT!

Speaking and listening are the foundations on which writing, spelling and reading are built. Your child develops these and other skills when they attend Kindergarten. As they build their speaking and listening confidence, they start to learn about writing.

What can I do?

- Read with your child regularly. Explore words and books together, and involve them when you are writing.
- As you read together, talk about the words you read. For example, rhyming words like: *bat* and *cat*, and talk about the sounds made at the beginning of words.
- Encourage your child to help you write notes, emails and shopping lists. Set out paper and pencils so they can try writing with you.
- Play word games together such as matching the name of an animal to the picture.
- Display letters and drawings your child has created. Write them notes such as: *I'm very proud of you!*

If your child speaks another language or dialect, they need time to hear the sounds of the English language. It may take up to two years or longer for them to hear and say all these sounds.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate when there are no distractions.

- Help your child recognise their name. Start by asking them to listen to the first sound in their name.
- Talk about the first letter of their name. Encourage them to look for that letter in other places. Help them write the letters in their name.
- When you make dinner ask questions such as: *Can you find something in the kitchen that starts with the same sound as your name?*
- Spend time together looking for letters and words your child knows. You can do this at home, in the car, at the shops and at the playground.
- Keep the learning fun!

A child with disability usually benefits from and enjoys the close interaction and stimulation provided when they are read their favourite stories or are sung a nursery rhyme. If your child has a disability, their school supports them as they participate in activities at a level suitable to their ability. Talk with your child's teacher about appropriate tools, equipment and ideas to support you and your child.

You'll find more
learning at home factsheets
at education.wa.edu.au.