

What to do Writing

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –
Please check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.*

Our focus today is writing.

1. Discuss a book with questions.

Read **Animal Rhymes** together, noticing the questions and answers. What words do the questions begin with? 'who' 'why' 'when' 'where' etc. How do the questions end? *With a question mark.*

2. Write questions about a book.

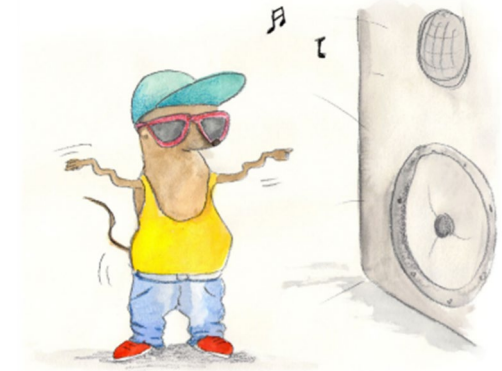
- Look at the page in **Animal Rhymes** where the cat is gripping the shelf. Discuss questions you could ask about this picture, e.g. *Why did the cat slip? What did the cat want on the shelf? How will the cat get down?* etc. Make this as fun as you can, saying questions in full sentences.
- Now show the **Ask some Questions** sheet below and ask your child to ask some questions based on the pictures.
 - Build questions verbally together, drawing a question mark in the air at the end of each question.
 - Choose one or more to write on **Ask some Questions** using a capital letter to begin the question and a question mark at the end.

NB. *Getting young children to write is not easy! See **Guidance and handwriting groups below.***

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Write questions on paper and 'post' for other household members to answer underneath, such as 'What is your favourite ice cream flavour?'
- Share some questions and answer jokes, like *What is brown and sticky? A stick*

Ask some Questions



Guidance for writing – some dos and don'ts

- ***DO focus on letter formation.*** See sheet below. It's really important that children get into the habit of writing letters correctly – this is not about how the finished letter looks, it's all about **how** they write it – what direction they move the pencil or pen. Bad habits are almost impossible to break – if they form letters wrongly, the finished letter may look good BUT in the long run, they are much less likely to be able to write fluently.
- ***DON'T write a word or a line for them to copy.*** If they can't remember how to write a letter, demonstrate, forming it correctly, so that they can imitate you.
- ***DO give loads of praise.*** Writing is so hard, and children get discouraged easily. It may be that they have just written one or two words, but if you praise them, it may be four words next time!
- ***DON'T do 'dotty' letters for them to trace.*** It is much better for children to form their own letters. We are teaching them to write not trace!
- ***DO write for them sometimes.*** It is important that young children can express their ideas in written form, and sometimes it is really good to write down what they say so that their ideas are expressed in writing on the page. Sometimes you can take turns to scribe. You write a bit, then they write a bit.

Handwriting Letter Groups

There are basically 4 groups of letters – in terms of how we move the pen to write these.

1. **Long Ladder Letters:** Start at the top and go down and then off in another direction, e.g. i, j, l, t, u
2. **Bouncing Ball Letters:** Start at the top, and go down and retrace upwards, e.g. b, h, k, m, n, p, r
3. **Curly Caterpillar Letters:** Start at the top and go anti-clockwise round, e.g. c, a, d, e, g, o, q, f, s
4. **Zigzag letters:** Zigzag from top then down, e.g. v, w, x, z

Scroll on down

Letter Groups

Group 1 – Long Ladder Letters

Start at the top and come down the ladder and go off into another direction.

i j l
t u

Group 2 – Bouncing Ball Letters

Start at the top, go down and then re-trace upwards.

b h k
m n p r

Group 3 – Curly Caterpillar Letters

Start at the top and go anti-clockwise round.

c a d e
g o q f
s

Group 4 – Zigzag Letters

Start at the top and zigzag down and up again.

v w
x z