

## 10 Ways To Help Your Children Become Better Writers



1. Make writing enjoyable.
2. Notice the different types of writing around you.
3. Encourage your children to leave notes.
4. Have your children write out the shopping list.
5. Provide writing materials for your children.
6. Keep a daily journal or diary.
7. Let your children create their own address book.
8. Use the computer to write.
9. Have a dictionary and thesaurus available.
10. Set a good example for your children by writing yourself.

### *What is good writing?*

Good writing is something that can be taught. Writers write for a reason. They may want to give you information or entertain you or express ideas or opinions. Good writing also takes time. Good writers begin by deciding what they will write. Then good writers get the ideas down onto paper without worrying about making mistakes. Next, good writers reread what they have written to make sure it is in order and it makes sense. Once this is done, good writers fix any mistakes in capital letters, end marks and spelling. Now the piece is ready to be shared.

(From Harcourt *Trophies*, 2005)

### *Questions Good Writers Ask:*

(from Harcourt *Trophies*, 2005)

- Is my writing clear?
- Do I have enough information?
- Do I have a beginning, middle and end?
- Is my information in the right order?
- Do each of my paragraphs have a main idea?
- Do I include important details in my paragraphs?
- Do I sound like myself?
- Do I say in an interesting way what I think or feel?
- Do my words make sense?
- Do I use interesting words?
- Do I begin my sentences in different ways?
- Does my writing sound smooth when I read it aloud?

