

**High-Performance Writing**  
Beginning Descriptive Writing

**School-Home Link**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

During the next few weeks, your child will be working on Descriptive Writing at the Beginning Level. Your child will learn to write descriptions based on the five senses (hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling), descriptions based on spatial order (what can be seen in each direction), riddles, and personal responses to riddles. Your child will be learning important language arts skills, including rules for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Your child will also learn to organize ideas in order to be a better writer.

Here are some things you can do with your child at home:

1. Take turns with your child in describing something using the five senses. For example, share what you see, smell, hear, taste, and feel as you walk outside or through the kitchen. Ask your child to describe a food, such as an apple, and tell how it looks, smells, sounds, tastes, and feels.
2. Your child will write some descriptions at school and bring them home. Ask your child to read them to you. Praise your child's writing. Post it on the refrigerator. Share it with other family members. Talk about other descriptions your child might write.
3. Say a nursery rhyme or sing a familiar song with your child. Talk about the descriptions in the rhyme or song. Ask your child what the writer does to make pictures in the audience's mind.
4. Visit the library to select books to share. Ask your librarian to suggest books with good descriptions. Read these books with your child, and choose the best descriptions together.
5. Provide paper and a pencil for your child to write a description just for you or as a gift for a friend or relative. Help your child with spelling as needed. Your child may want to draw an illustration to accompany the description.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about the writing we're doing at school, please feel free to call or meet with me.

Your child's teacher,

  

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