

High-Performance Writing
Beginning Practical Writing

School-Home Link

Dear _____,

During the next few weeks, your child will be working on Practical Writing at the Beginning Level. Your child will learn to write lists, notes, invitations, and friendly letters. These are important skills your child will use now and as an adult. Besides learning to produce these practical forms of writing, your child will learn 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. If your child receives a gift, talk about the importance of writing a thank-you letter to the giver. Provide your child with the materials to write and send a thank-you letter.
2. Your child will be writing some example letters at school and bringing 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 letters your child might write.
3. Provide paper and a pencil for your child to practice writing a list. The list could be of food to buy at the grocery, items to pack for a picnic, or things to do on a rainy day.
4. Visit the library to select books to share. Ask your librarian to suggest books about letter writing. In *Corduroy Writes a Letter*, by Alison Inches, and *The Secret Friend*, by Joyce Dunbar, the main characters write letters.
5. Provide paper, a pen, an envelope, and a stamp for your child to write a friendly letter to a family member or friend. Encourage your child to tell about events in his or her daily life and to ask questions to encourage the person who receives the letter to write back. Your child may wish to draw a picture to send with the letter.

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,
