

High-Performance Writing
Intermediate Descriptive Writing

School-Home Link

Dear _____,

During the next few weeks, your child will be working on Descriptive Writing at the Intermediate Level. Your child will learn to write descriptions based on the five senses (hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling), descriptions based on spatial order (top-to-bottom and near-to-far), and descriptions that are personal responses to poems. Besides learning to write descriptions, your child will be learning important language arts skills, including rules for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Your child will also learn how 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 ride the bus downtown. Describe a piece of 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. Read some descriptions from books or newspapers to your child, or have your child read some descriptions to you. Talk about what makes a good description. Ask your child what the writer does to make pictures in the reader'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 pen or 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,
