

STEP 3:

Linking and writing and reading



TIPS TO GET THEM WRITING!

Given how much we know about the cognitive benefits of handwriting, keeping pens, pencils and crayons in their hands is a must. Here's a few 'tried and true' tips to get kids writing. So, when the next empty hour presents itself grabs the pens and paper and get them busy.

- Create individual Christmas, birthday and thank you cards. Decorate the front and the back. Then write your message inside using brightly coloured pens and pencils. Don't forget to address the envelope in your own writing to complete the personal touch.
- Hide a secret treasure in your home or garden and write a set of hidden-treasure clues or instructions for someone else to follow.
- Start a holiday scrapbook. Paste in items that relate to how you spent each day or draw a picture of what you did. Then write a few sentences about each event.
- Create your own word searches for a friend to complete. Draw up a table with ten lines running vertically and horizontally to form the word grid. Next, make a list of words to use in the word search. Now, write the words into the boxes. Remember, they can be written vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Finally, fill in the remaining boxes with letters to fill the table. Can you remember where you put all the words?
- Plan your own play date! Make a list of who you'd like to invite over for a play date and then list the activities you'll do together.
- Write a letter to your favourite author. Send it to the publishing house where the books were published and it will be sure to reach them. Here's a photo of a letter I received as the author of the Bella Dancerella books written under my pen name, Poppy Rose. It gave me such a thrill to receive this. Authors love getting letters from their readers!
- Complete some of the writing activities from my new series, Harriet Clare. Ask a parent to take a photo of your completed pages and send them to me. You might just get a reply from Harriet herself!
- Use the invisible ink recipe from the 7 Steps book to make your own secret messages for someone else to discover.