

1st Grade Writing Tips for Parents

How to Help During Writing

Let your 1st grader write the sounds they hear (even if they miss some).

Encouraging your child to stretch out words on their own, builds their independence and allows them to focus on what they want to write, rather than spelling patterns they may not be ready for yet. Consistently telling children how to spell words can also make them reluctant to try writing new words that they don't know how to spell. It's important to support them in taking risks with their writing and spelling!

Some words that we use a lot do need to be memorized (they are called "Sight Words"). You can find these words on the back of this sheet! While your child is writing, you can give them that page for reference.

Things you can say when your child asks "how do you spell...?"

- "What sounds do you hear?"
- "Do you hear any little words inside that word?" (like "in" in "winter")
- "Let's stretch it out. Say the word. What sound did you hear first? Let's read what we have so far. What sound is next?"
- "Write the word part by part. What's the first part you hear?"
- "Be brave and give it a try! If it bugs you, circle it for now, and we can check it later."

Encourage Writing to Happen

Writing doesn't just have to be book reports and essays!

Just like reading, we write all the time without even realizing it! Encourage your child to write whatever he/she is interested in writing (and help them find that interest!). Here are some great opportunities for writing:

- Grocery Lists
- Fiction Stories
- Cards
- Wish Lists
- Letters
- Notes
- Journals
- Picture Captions
- Questions

Sight Words

Sight Words are words students should know “by sight” because we see them a lot and they often don’t follow the rules. Your 1st grader can use this page as a reference while they are writing!

Pre-Primer		Primer		First Grade	
a	look	all	out	after	let
and	make	am	please	again	live
away	me	are	pretty	an	may
big	my	at	ran	any	of
blue	not	ate	ride	as	old
can	one	be	saw	ask	once
come	play	black	say	by	open
down	red	brown	she	could	over
find	run	but	so	every	put
for	said	came	soon	fly	round
funny	see	did	that	from	some
go	the	do	there	give	stop
help	three	eat	they	going	take
here	to	four	this	had	thank
I	two	get	too	has	them
in	up	good	under	her	then
is	we	have	want	him	think
it	where	he	was	his	walk
jump	yellow	into	well	how	were
little	you	like	went	just	when
		must	what	know	
		new	white		
		no	who		
		now	will		
		on	with		
		our	yes		