

## Top tips for engaging reluctant writers:

- Asking children to write about a topic they have no interest in, for no real reason other than because you tell them to, can be a losing battle. Let your child choose what they want to write about to spark their interest in writing.
- Create a purpose for writing and an audience it will be shared with e.g. family at home, sending a photo/video of their writing to friends, family or teachers. When children have a clear purpose, they will be much more enthusiastic as they can see why they were being asked to write in the first place.
- You could create a 'story box' filled with items based on your child's hobbies and interests (objects or photographs). When children spot something they're genuinely interested in, their creativity will flow.
- You could do some shared writing just like we do at school e.g. you could begin a story and ask your child to continue writing it. This allows you to model the process of writing as well as allowing children to share their ideas with you.
- Set clear and achievable goals e.g. "today you are going to write 4 sentences and then tomorrow we will add a further 3". It can be daunting for children when faced with a whole piece of blank paper they feel they must fill, so breaking it down into sections can help.
- Your child may have some great ideas but not know where to start writing. Don't be afraid to let them draw their ideas first, then they could add labels before building up to sentence writing.
- Remember, writing is more than just story writing. Children might like to write a poem, a newspaper article, a book review, a recipe, an invitation, a letter, a diary entry, instructions on how to play their favourite game or how to bake a cake. If your child is interested in computer games, they could design their own game. If they like comics, they could create their own comic strips including captions and speech bubbles.
- In order to write anything, a child must first be able to say what they want to write, don't underestimate the value in talking and reading to your child as well as encouraging your child to tell stories.



For children to be successful writers, they need to feel inspired and engaged so don't be afraid to let your child's interests lead the way!