

Writing Sentences at Home



Use your Child's own Language

The sentences your child writes should reflect the language they understand and use to speak. This does not mean sentences should be incorrect.

Recasting

If when you ask for a sentence, your child gives you only one or two words or a sentence which is grammatically incorrect simply repeat back to them as a short correct sentence. This will be the sentence you write together.

Overly Long Sentences

If when you ask for a sentence, your child gives you a whole story, stop them and say "I want a **short sentence** for writing". Then model a **short sentence**. Use this sentence and then make another one together.

Communication

Get your child to share their sentences with other people. This will give them the idea that writing is a way of communicating their own ideas to others.

How to write a sentence

- Provide a visual. This might be a picture or a photograph of your child doing something interesting.
- Ask your child to give you a '**sentence for writing**'.
- Listen to what they say. Recast if you need to.
- **Verbally Rehearse** this sentence. Say the sentence back to your child. Get them to repeat the sentence back to you. Do this several times.
- Only then let them pick up their pencil and 'write the sentence'.
- Try not to interrupt your child as they write, wait until they have finished and then get them to read the sentence back to you pointing to each word.
- If any of the words are illegible, write them correctly above.

If you are writing several sentences...

- Write one sentence yourself to model how.
- Ask your child to have a go writing one or two sentences on their own.
- If your child has lots more ideas you can write the extra sentences for them and then share the finished piece by reading back together.

Is it too hard?

Writing should be fun for you and your child. If it is not, then it may be too hard or they may not be in the right mood. If this is the case support them more to achieve their sentences. They need to feel successful and enjoy writing with you.

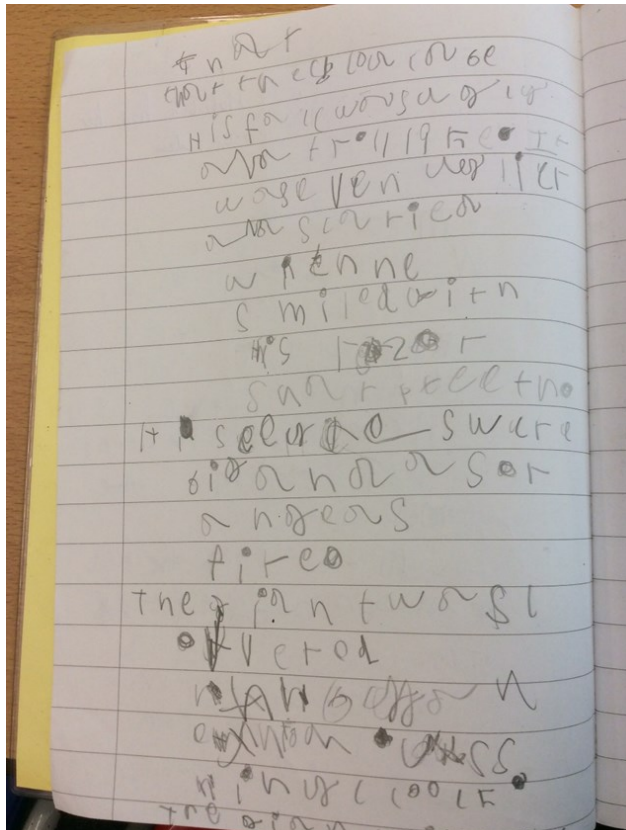
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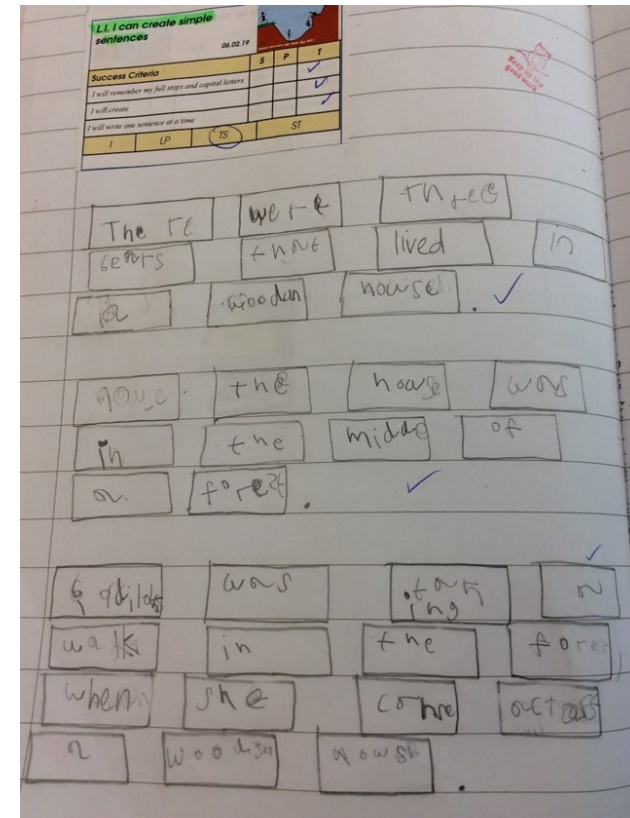
If your child cannot write on the line and they write their words on top of each other so that they are difficult to read, use boxed sentences.

You draw boxes on the paper for each word.

Before



After



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Of course you will want to check your child's writing with them.



Resist the temptation to correct them as they write their sentence; there are lots of things they are having to focus on and if you interrupt them they will probably forget their sentence completely.

You can give them any tricky spellings if they ask. Silently write these down for them to copy.

After they have finished writing get your child to read their sentence back to you.

You can use a simple editing checklist.

Then you could sound out one or two phonically regular words together.

's Editing Checklist	
Capital Letter A	
Full Stop .	
Read back and check 	
Correct spellings 	


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Spellings: Only sound out easy words you know your child can do. Here are some other ideas.

.....'s Word Bank					

because



big elephants can always understand
small elephants

Write words in the word bank boxes that your child needs often when writing. Get them to use the word bank to find spellings when writing.

Have fun making mnemonics together.

.....'s Word Bank					

Mnemonics

Are simple visual prompts to aid
with spelling

because



big elephants can always understand
small elephants

ought



O U great hairy thing

Would, could, should

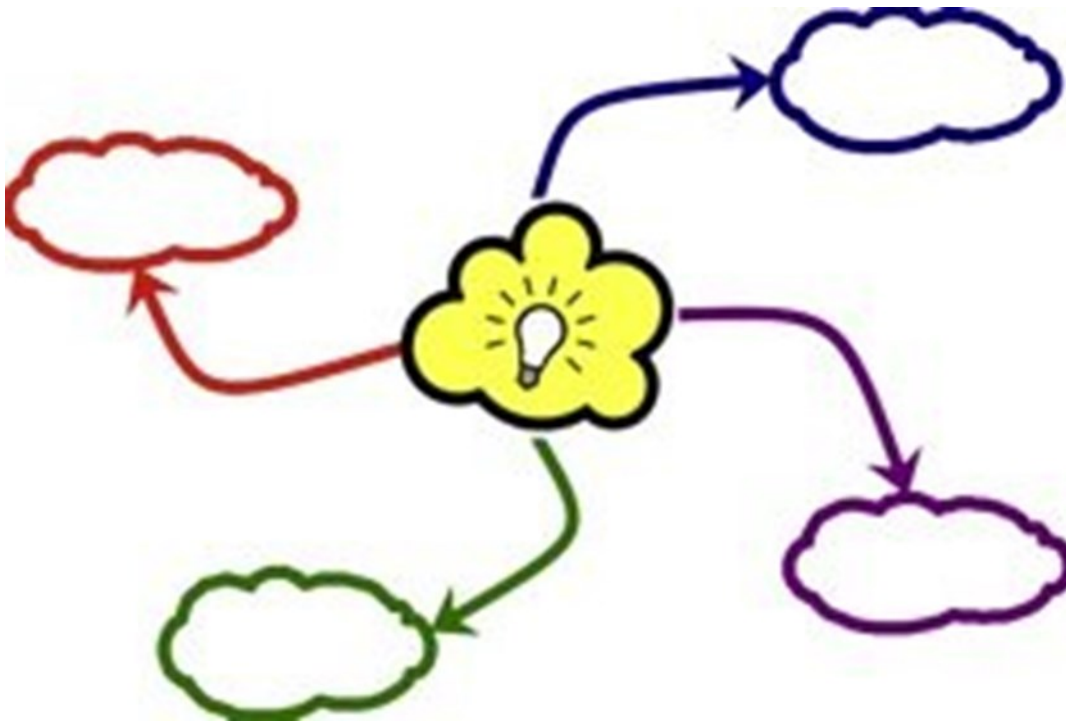


O U Little Devil

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If you want to write more than one sentence



- Talk about the subject you want to write about and record ideas on a simple mind map.
- Use pictures and written words.
- Then write a sentence about each branch of the