

“Get it Write”: The Use of Written Language to Facilitate Literacy Development in Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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Writing for Success

Developing literacy skills, including writing, is a priority for those working with young children. Youth with hearing loss are especially at risk for delayed writing development. The National Association for the Education of Young Children emphasizes the following¹ concerning teaching children to write:

- Specific instruction is required for children to learn to write.
- Young children learn best when writing is taught in meaningful contexts, rather than isolated lessons.
- Exposure is key! Children need to interact with print early and often to learn how letters & words carry meaning.



The “Write” Steps for Parents

Writing practice can be simple! Keep in mind these tips:

- Add writing to your family routines- mealtime, playtime, bedtime, etc. See suggestions below!
- Embrace your child’s mistakes. Exploring spelling is a step in writing development and builds a stronger letter-sound foundation than just copying words.
- Avoid frequent correction of your child’s spelling. Just model correct spelling in your own writing.
- Ask your child to explain what they write. Get excited about it together!

At Home Suggestions

Make a Diary

Decide with your child what type of diary they would like to start.

- **Personal Diary** – Recount thoughts, feelings and recent events from the day.
- **Special Event Diary** – Write about special moments in their life such as vacations, performances, or holidays.
- **Nature Diary** - Describe what they touch, hear, see, smell, and experience outside your home

Buy, decorate, or create a diary around their interests so they are excited about it.



Set an example by writing in your own diary alongside them.

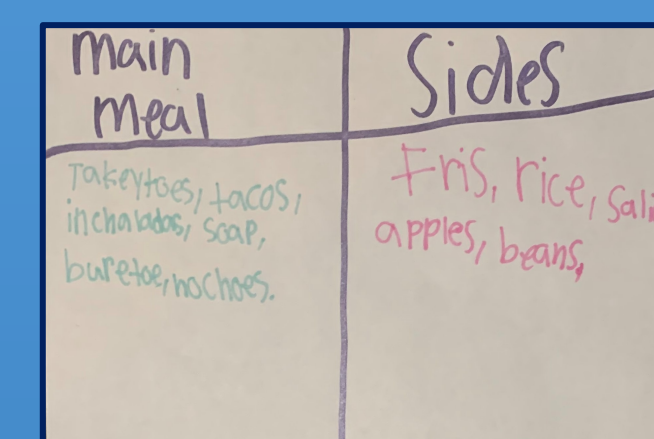
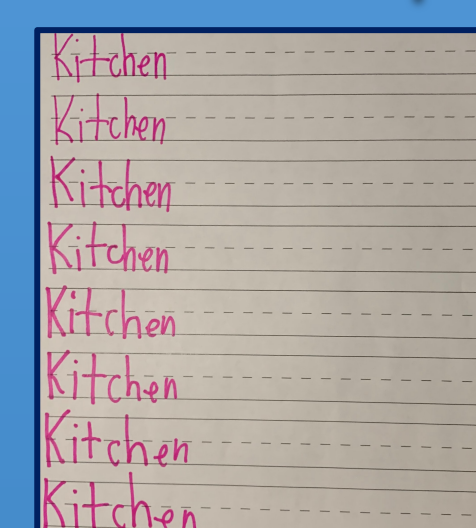
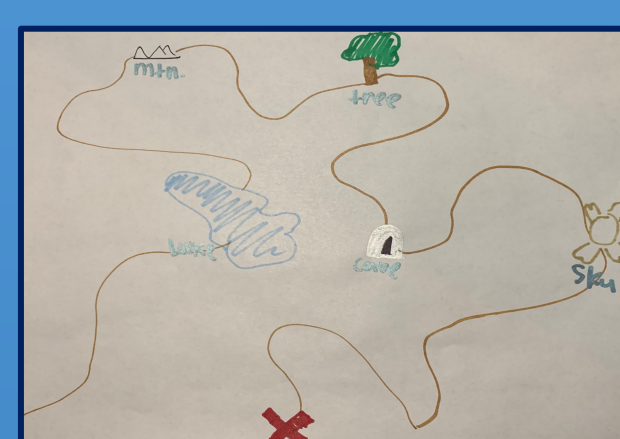
Make Placemats

Laminate pieces of paper to make a writing activity repeatable!

- Keep markers handy so kids can write on these “mats” again and again.
- Just wipe with rubbing alcohol to clear between each use.

Examples include:

- Maps for buried treasure
- Lined paper for traditional handwriting practice
- A restaurant menu for play or mealtimes



Bedtime Stories

Create bedtime stories together!

- Use a pre-folded book of lined or white paper.
- Trace the written words together.
- Illustrate the story together.



Sing and write rhymes!

- Use a singalong book or nursery rhyme such as “Down by the Bay” or “Little Bo Peep.”
- Write down the rhymes together as you sing them.



Create sequence stories!

- Stop at an exciting part of the story.
- Write down/ illustrate possible next steps (and make your child excited for tomorrow’s continuation!).

Additional Ideas

Label your child’s belongings by writing their name.

Keep a word of the day on the fridge.

Write grocery lists together.

Label objects around the house.

Write a chore chart together.

Write a letter to someone.

Purchase writing toys (e.g. magnetic drawing board).