

Writing ideas for the reluctant writer

Try out some of these activities. Keep them short, fun and relevant to minimise stress and maximise enjoyment. Set the scene and perhaps even get some props out or make it part of a game your child likes to play.

Completing these activities regularly for a short amount of time will make a big difference to engagement and confidence with writing.

1. **HELP!** Set the scene you are stranded/captured/lost you need to leave or send a note to get you free. Who is it to? Where are you? How did you get there? What can they do to help?
2. **DISGUSTING!** You are making the worlds most disgusting meal/cake/pudding. You need to write a shopping list. What will be on your list and where will you go to buy it?
3. **THE MISSION.** You have been tasked with going on a dangerous mission to rescue/capture/destroy in a dangerous land. What do you need to take? Who do you need to take? What is the plan?
4. **SPY WRITING.** If you have a lemon you can write with the juice and then carefully apply heat to reveal the message. Also works with soap on the mirror and steam from the tap.
5. **MAKE IT COLOURFUL.** When writing use felts, pencil crayons, gel pens and see how colourful you can make the words.

6. CRAZY STORY. An old classic. Take a piece of paper and follow these instructions:

The steps are as follows, where the things in brackets should be replaced by the chosen words or phrase. You write your answer and then pass it to the next person who must write their answer before folding and passing it back. No peeking until the end where you reveal your story.

(superhero's name)

met (villains name)

in/at/on (where they met)

(Hero's name) said (what the hero said)

(Villain's name) said (what villain said)

(Hero's name) (what the hero did)

(Villain's name) (what what the villain did)

In the end (what happened).

Unfold the paper and read your crazy story. You can change the superhero and villain to whatever you fancy.

7. WHAT'S THAT SONG? Take one of their favourite songs and ask them to copy some or all of the lyrics. Can they remember them off by heart?