

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

- Bring books, paper, and writing/drawing *tools* outside for children to use and enjoy.
- For older toddlers, point out a few familiar letters such as the first letter in a child's name and call attention to them occasionally. If a child asks for a letter name, provide it. Do not drill children on reciting the alphabet or naming letters.
- Promote literacy-related play activities that reflect children's interests and social and cultural experiences by supplying materials such as telephone books, recipe cards, shopping lists, greeting cards, and storybooks for use in daily activities.



- Encourage children to re-tell experiences and events that are important to them through pictures and dictation.
- Assist children in making their own books and class books.
- Allow for writing to occur on a slanted surface (use large binder on a table to create a slanted surface) or on easels or paper taped to the wall (vertical surface).
- Use different textures of paper to write on such as sandpaper, tissue paper, newspaper, or thick paper.
- *Model* writing whenever possible for children, such as during attendance, lunch count, making lists, or writing reminders.
- Demonstrate enjoyment, interest, and motivation to write for numerous reasons, such as making lists or writing a note, showing children that writing is fun and useful.
- Talk out loud while writing with the children so they can understand the process of writing. Say letters out loud while writing, describe step-by-step while writing for different purposes in classroom *routines* (name on paper, description of artwork, thank-you notes, menus).
- Provide dictation opportunities such as, "What would you like to say in your card to your mom?" or "Tell me what you like to do outside, and I'll write it down." Read the writing back to the child to strengthen the connection between the printed and spoken words.
- Offer shared writing experiences to small groups of children, writing down their ideas on a large piece of paper for all to see ("Let's make a list of things we saw on our field trip.").
- Take pictures of experiences and write captions to go with the pictures or compile pictures to create a book.