

Helping your child to generate ideas for writing

Strategies/ ideas to get reluctant writers to write by Neil Mackay

<http://www.actiondyslexia.co.uk/downloads/Gettingreluctantwriterstowrite.pdf>

SHARE IDEAS BEFORE WRITING

With your child discuss and share ideas before writing (with a sister, brother or the whole family, or even record ideas using a technology device) - This gets their creative juices flowing. Children who struggle with coming up with their own ideas might get inspired by family thoughts. Having family share ideas also helps to solidify and ground the idea so it isn't lost.

COLLABORATIVELY WRITE

This is an opportunity for the whole family to get involved. Instead of having your child start writing on their own, first, collaboratively write together as a family. Have different members share their ideas to create a collaborative writing sample. This demonstrates for struggling writers how to approach the assignment and it provides them with ideas of what to write about.

USE SENTENCE STARTERS

Your child may say, "I don't know what to write about," sentence starters are helpful for triggering ideas when your child is struggling to write.

For example:

There was only one thing for it

The door creaked open and there stood

In my opinion I would.....

<https://areasoflearningips.weebly.com/sentence-starters.html>

FREEWriting WITHOUT WORRY ABOUT SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION

Freewriting is great to help your child get their ideas flowing. They are also helpful to encourage children to write down their thoughts. Using a writing warm-up like Freewriting: (where children write without stopping or without worrying about spelling or grammar) their ideas can flow and they don't have to deal with writing paralysis. This could be retelling another well know story or a funny family event.

BRAINSTORMING

Brainstorming ideas together with your child and both of you recording them down together either in a visual way or in the written form is a great way to help your child quickly get as many ideas as possible. The blank page can be daunting for your child who struggles with coming up with ideas. This is also helpful because it is a visual for your child to see that they have lots of ideas.

WRITING FRAMES/WORD BANKS

Rather than giving your child a blank piece of paper, a less threatening approach is providing a writing frame with key words and spellings to help them with their writing journey. You will need to read the words to the child and if their reading is weak draw pictures together to help them recall the word. You can add sentence starts to this as well to help further with their writing ideas and give them more confidence.

<http://writingframes.parkfieldprimary.com/>