

Grade 3 Parent Writing Tips

Keep it Positive

- Look for what is done well, and praise – “We learn to write primarily by building on our strengths.”(Murray). Criticism makes young writers feel defensive and discouraged.

When There is a Problem . . .

- All writers need suggestions for improvement. The power of your suggestions may lie a great deal in how you phrase them. Avoid beginning comments with “You” or “Your writing”; these phrases sound accusatory. Try using phrases like “I saw”, “I felt”, “I noticed”. Remember to always say something positive :“I really liked how you . . .”, “It was great when you . . .”

Be the Coach - Not the Writer

- It may be tempting to “do” the writing for your child, but it is important for you to know when to back away. You can help you child by:
 - Brainstorming topics and ideas
 - Talking through a story or informational piece
 - Providing ideas on how/where to get information
 - Being a listener-or reader-of your child’s piece of writing
 - Sharing correct spelling of words, correct use of punctuation, or other editorial tips.

Make A Plan and Take Notes

- When planning a family vacation, activities for the day, or even the family meal, encourage your child to help you write a plan on what will needed and the necessary steps.

- When you are on vacation, driving in the car, or even making the family meal, ask your child to bullet information about what was good, bad, what was most interesting, or what should be done differently next time.

Allow Your Child to Type

- Keyboarding and typing skills will be necessary as your child creates longer pieces of writing. If there is a computer available in your home, encourage your child to write and publish pieces through the use of the computer. They may also want to keep a journal on a computer. This can be a fun and engaging way for your child to initiate the writing process.

Write to Your Child

- Write letters to your child and try to use a new vocabulary word! This letter could be as simple as:

Dear Charlie,

Have a wonderful and **enriching** day! I know you will learn a lot!

Love, Dad

Be Excited!

- Encourage your child to read their writing out loud to you. Give them your undivided attention. Let your child know you value his/her efforts, and cannot wait to hear the next piece!