

Keeping a Journal

Primary Objectives

19b. Writes to convey meaning

Why It's Important

This is a great time for your child to start keeping a journal. Having her own personal space to write about what is important to her will help your child develop her writing skills. It will also encourage her to think about and reflect on what she finds interesting.

Materials

Paper; markers, pens, pencils, or other writing tools; glue; cardboard; collage materials: a variety of papers (small pieces), glitter, leaves, feathers, pom-poms, fabric swatches, pipe cleaners, foam shapes, beads, small shells, colored sand, magazines, greeting cards

What You Do

1. Talk with your child about the purpose of a journal. Explain that it is a place where she can write anything she wants and that she may share it with others or keep it to herself.
2. Invite your child to make a journal. Help her fold the paper in half, punch holes in it, and then bind the blank book together with yarn. Allow her to choose the colors of paper and yarn she would like to use. If she is interested, encourage her to use the cardboard and collage materials to make a cover for the journal.
3. After the journal is bound together, invite your child to make her first journal entry. *What would you like to write about in your journal today?* Explain that she may make an entry each day about something that happened that day.
4. Encourage your child to write her own words, if appropriate, or copy words that you have written. Allow her to choose how she would like to make entries in her journal.
5. Together, read over what she has written in past days. Ask questions about what she wrote. *How did you make that tower you wrote about in your journal yesterday? What did you eat when you had dinner at Grammy's house?*
6. After your child is finished writing in her journal each day, encourage her to put it back where it belongs so that she can find it easily the next time she wants to write in it.