

## Development of Children's Writing Skills



Engaging in story-based activities with children will help them make the positive connection between play and reading and allow them to experience the fun of both. Parents and other family members will particularly play a crucial role, constantly promoting the fun aspects of reading and storytelling.

### **Ideas for developing writing and creative thinking skills:**

- **Story Sacks:** place a few items, such as a raincoat, an apple, a toy car, into a sack and see what creative stories children come up with.
- **The News:** have children set up a news broadcast detailing their own news and stories from the week.
- **Story cards:** use flashcards to prompt the children to get creative.
- **Role-Play Retelling:** have children make their own finger or hand puppets for a creative re-telling of a story.
- **Journals:** invite children to keep a journal. Try out large sheets of unlined paper. Most children will write with pictures, scribbles, random letters or beginning phonic spellings.
- **Post Office:** create a post office to play in. To create a simple post-office box, paint an old shoe box green and put a slit in the top. Children can then write a letter to each other or to family members.
- **Writing:** provide lots of writing materials. Create a 'writing centre'. This could be a simple shelf with paper, large crayons, pencils and other items. The concept can be expanded by adding a chalkboard, a bulletin board or other office-style items to enhance children's dramatic play.
- **Group Reading in a Story Roundabout:** nominate one child to begin the story and then continue it around the circle with each child adding a line.
- **Group Reading:** start a bookclub!