

Writing Challenge Cards

The Writing Challenge Cards are short activity ideas that can fit into your day and will help your child see Writing as fun. The cards relate to Writing for entertainment and information, building vocabulary, and encouraging children to make connections between their lives and the texts they write.

You can repeat each activity as many times as your child wants to. Feel free to change the ideas to suit your child's interests, what you have in your house and their current level of development. If your child wants to represent their thinking on paper let them do so in their own way. They may write, draw, create charts, lists or brainstorm.


Please share any ideas you have for Writing challenges so that our collection of cards can grow and we can learn from one another.




You can find more information here: <https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths>

writing challenge 1

Think of some words that are interesting to say, like 'hippopotamus' or 'deliciously'.

How many syllables do you hear in this word?

1. hamburger 

3 ham - burg - er
  

Clap how many syllables are in these words.
What's the word can you think of with the most syllables?

Writing Challenge 2

Make up a play with your family.

You could make finger puppets, masks or use your toys to act it out.



Or you could all be actors yourselves!

Writing Challenge 3

Write invitations for birthdays or special events.

Or better yet, don't wait for a special event - write

an invitation inviting your family to eat dinner together.



Writing Challenge 4

Send an email to your grandparents.

What could you tell them about? What questions could you ask them?



writing challenge 5

Start a writing journal.

Write amazing words you find.

Write interesting descriptions.

Write down ideas for new stories.

Write whatever you want!



writing challenge 6

What lists can you write this week?

Shopping lists

To-do lists

Chores lists

Wish lists



Writing Challenge 7

Write a letter to a friend or whanau member telling them what you love about them or what makes them special.

Decorate your letter with cut out pictures, etc.



writing challenge 8

Go through the junk mail
in your letterbox.

Cut out items you like and
make a poster or create
your own brochure.



Writing Challenge 9

Don't wait for a holiday - ask your grown ups if you can buy some postcards.

Write a nice message on them and post them to friends and family.



writing challenge 10

Ask your grown ups to keep envelopes, forms, letters, banking slips, or papers they don't need.

Do some 'grown up' writing.



Writing Challenge 11

Write down new words from a book you've read and ask your grown up to help you look them up in a dictionary or thesaurus.



writing challenge 12

Create a display for your writing:

You could use:

- A clipboard
- Magnets for the fridge
- An old photo or picture frame

What else could you use?



Writing Challenge 13

Write in the sand at the beach (or make your own sand tray).

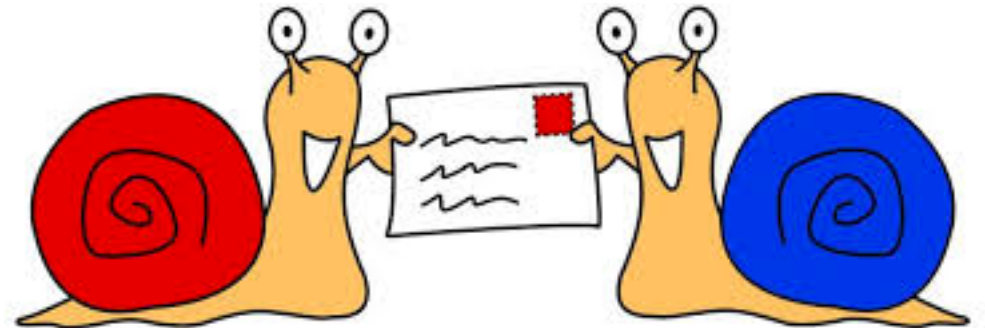
You could write a message, some WOW words, an interesting sentence, or practise your spelling words...



writing challenge 14

Find a penpal - it could be a friend or someone in your family.

Send each other emails, cards, or letters.



Writing Challenge 15

Ask a family member to tell you a story about their childhood.

Make a book of their story -
written in your words and illustrated by you.
Gift it to them.



writing challenge 16

Create your own secret code and write messages for people in your family to decipher.



writing challenge 17

Make a photo book about a family outing, holiday or special event.

Write captions for the photos.



writing challenge 18

Create a scrapbook showing your hobbies or interests.



writing challenge 19

Write your own Charades cards for a family game.

Take turns to act out what is written on the cards.



writing challenge 20

Create a display at home of amazing words you find.

See if you can use these words in conversations at home, or in your writing at school.



Writing Challenge 21

Cut out WOW words from old magazines, newspapers, flyers, or brochures.

You could make them into a poem, sentence, story or display.



writing challenge 22

Help your grown up do the shopping.



Write the shopping list
and read out all the items you need.

writing challenge 23

Cut out letters or words from old magazines, brochures, flyers or newspapers.

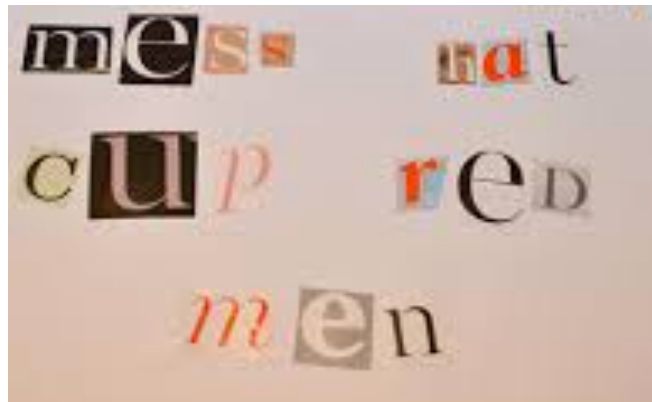


Use them to make secret notes to leave under your family's pillows or in their work / school bags.

writing challenge 24

Cut out letters from old magazines, brochures, flyers or newspapers.

Use them to practise your spelling words.



writing challenge 25

Make up a different ending for a favourite story or fairy tale.



writing challenge 26

Research a topic that interests you.

Give your family a presentation and tell them all about what you've learned.



writing challenge 27

Use Google Slides or PowerPoint to create your own book.



Writing Challenge 28

Practise your spelling words:

- Use fancy pens
- Write them all in capitals
- Make them using playdough
- Write them in a sand tray
- Write them in shaving foam



Writing Challenge 29

Practise your fine motor skills:

- Cutting and gluing
- Crafts
- Threading
- Squeezing modelling clay
- Knitting
- Colouring



Writing Challenge 30

Be a word detective and find words around your house.

Sort them by the number of syllables they have.



Which has the most letters? The least?

Put them in alphabetical order.

Writing Challenge 31

'Write' a story using only pictures.

You could either draw them yourself or cut them out of magazines, etc.



Writing Challenge 32

Observe your grown up making your favourite dinner.

Write your own recipe for the meal so you can make it yourself one day.



Writing Challenge 33

Hide a toy or teddy somewhere in your house.

Write instructions for how to find it. Time everyone in your family. Who can find it the quickest?



Writing Challenge 34

Choose a letter from the alphabet.

Write a list of everything you can find in the house that starts with that letter.

