

Writing Messages

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to learn that writing is used for a reason and that writing represents thoughts or spoken words written down.

Materials

- ◆ paper
- ◆ pencil



What to do

Writing messages with your child seems a natural thing to do after creating lists and writing reminders. Messages are an effective way to communicate and offer information to others.

When you and your child are leaving the house, ask him or her to write a message to other family members telling them where you are going or at what time you will return. Encourage your child to use his or her developing writing skills and help him or her “stretch” out the words to find the sounds. Leave the message on the table or other noticeable place. Encourage other family members to comment on how the message helped them.

Extending the activity

- ❖ Make sure that there are paper and pencil near your child’s play area or in his or her room. Encourage your child to use them during play.
- ❖ Invent things to do with messages. Instead of talking, pass quick notes back and forth. For example, when your child asks you a yes-or-no question, grab a pencil and write your answer. If your child asks for more information about a subject, tell him or her to write the question. Then respond with a written answer.