

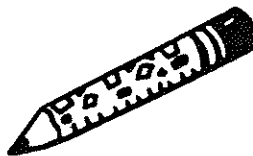
Writing Thank-You Notes

Targeted skill

Young children are expected to write notes, reminders, labels, and so on as they learn to connect the letters with the sounds they make. This is how they learn to spell, read, and write.

Materials

- ◆ paper
- ◆ crayon, felt-tip marker, or pencil



What to do

Receiving a gift can be an opportunity for your child to practice his or her writing skills. This activity can be as simple or involved as you wish.

To begin, explain to your child that since he or she likes a particular gift, he or she could write a letter of thanks to the person who gave the gift. Provide paper (it could be folded note cards, colored paper, or drawing paper) and something to write with. Help your child sound out words to express the thanks. Once again, this can be as simple as “Thak u” or something more complicated.

Ask your child to sign the card, and then place it in an envelope. Address the envelope, add a stamp, and put it in the mail to help your child understand the process of posting a letter.

Extending the activity

- ✦ There are many opportunities to write letters. Grandparents appreciate receiving an “I love you” note or a card to celebrate a holiday. Handmade cards are always appreciated.

Writing Development

Writing Thank-you Notes *(continued)*

- ✦ One fun way to do this activity is to take photographs of your child holding the gift. Your child can write the thank-you note on the back of the photo. Tuck it into an envelope and mail it.
- ✦ Another alternative that works well at birthday parties is to take a picture of your child and the gift-giving child together as your child receives his or her gift. Then your child can write the thanks on the back of that picture and send it to the giver.
- ✦ Be sure to talk with your child about what to say on the card. He or she can extend the writing to include descriptive words or could describe how the gift has been enjoyed.

What your child is practicing

Not only is your child practicing many language arts skills, but he or she is also practicing social skills, such as being gracious.