

# WRITING

AT SCHOOL

If your child is meeting the Writing Standard by the end of Year 7...

...they will be working towards writing at curriculum level 4.

To meet the standard your child will be learning to:

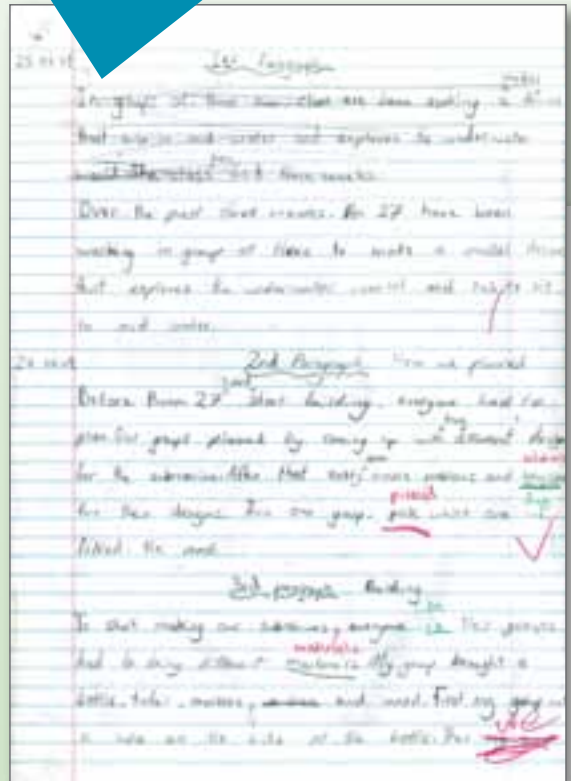
- write for particular audiences and purposes using appropriate, clear and logical structures
- carefully plan their writing projects using a variety of strategies
- use paragraphs that link main ideas and supporting details, within and between paragraphs
- write in grammatically correct sentences using a range of language features and complex punctuation; e.g., rhetorical questions, metaphors, semicolons
- use correctly-spelt words, using a range of strategies. For example, letter-sound knowledge, spelling rules and conventions, meaning and spelling of word parts and word origins, letter patterns
- show they are revising and editing as well as proof-reading as they write.



Work together...

Help support your child's learning by building a good relationship with your child's teacher, finding out how your child is doing and working together to support their learning.

Writing at this level might look like this:



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In this writing, the child has:

- described a process of working in a group, to complete a task over time
- used headings to organise the description of what they did
- made the headings logical and used them to provide information about the sequence of what the groups did
- edited and identified misspelt words and corrected the spelling.

## WRITING

## AT HOME

## Make writing fun

- Encourage your child to listen for and use interesting words. Having a wide range of words will help your child create stories which will increase in complexity.
- Use technology. Text messages and emails are a form of writing even if the language is not always standard English.
- Use computers if your child isn't keen on writing. They don't have to think about the presentation of their work and editing does not require a complete re-write. Spell-check helps, too.

## Talk about writing with your child

- Talk with your child about their day. Talking helps to organise your thinking and is an important first step for any writing.
- Talk about new words your child is not familiar with, using a dictionary to find out more – there are dictionaries online.
- Be a positive audience for your child. Always respond to the effort behind the message and the message content first (regardless of how the message is written) and the presentation second. Keep in mind what your child is currently learning to do and comment just on that.
- Keep a holiday journal. Before the holidays ask your child to write a list of possible activities they want to do that keep to your budget and get them to draw up an activity plan. Remember to include any events or activities you have to attend; e.g. school camp, noho marae, church, doctor, sports training, family/whānau reunion. Your child could write a list of what to pack.

*Talk about what your child writes. Be interested. Use it as a way of starting conversations. Listen to your child's opinion, even if you don't agree with it.*

Play card and board games and complete difficult crosswords and word puzzles.

Create a message board. This could be done with magnetic letters and words or a whiteboard/pinboard. The messages might be instructions, reminders or praise for a job well done, as well as examples of work. Encourage your child and other family members to respond with messages, too.

*Make writing fun and use any excuse you can think of to encourage your child to write about anything, any time.*

## Keep them interested

- Encourage your child to read. Reading and writing are linked and success in one is likely to lead to success in the other.
- Buy interesting stationery for your child to use. Coloured pens and pencils can be an incentive to write together with special paper or books. Give a diary, book or notebook as a present. Plan for them to be able to use a computer for writing – at home or the library.
- Look for real reasons for writing. Encourage your child to read and write letters, messages, postcards, invitations, lists, rosters, thank-you notes, recipes, emails. Start with postcards to family and friends, if your child only wants to write a few sentences – encourage your family to write back.
- Make lists for a particular reason; e.g., shopping, jobs to be completed, family members who especially like to hear from your child.
- Encourage your child to write on their own. Poems, songs, waiata, short stories or a diary – on paper or on the computer – can be ways for your child to keep track of their thoughts, ideas or a particular interest. For example, keep a journal of their sports training, kapa haka practice or compile favourite recipes. It might be fun to write to a favourite author or kaumātua to ask what helps them to write their stories and compositions.

*Be a role model. Show your child that you write for lots of reasons, e.g., replying to an email, writing a shopping list, invitation or letter, writing for your work or your own study. Use your first language – this helps your child's learning, too.*

## Support your child...

As parents, family and whānau you play a big part in your child's learning every day, and you can support and build on what they learn at school too.