

# BES Tiger Tracks

## *Writing in the Home*

*(from Ruth Culham and Amanda Wheeler)*

*Dear Parents:*

*Here are some excellent writing activities that you and your child can do at home. These are applicable to any grade level. Encourage your child to do his or her best.*

1. Turn your home into a print-rich environment by allowing your child easy access to magazines, books, maps, manuals, e-mail, cookbooks, menus, television guides, newspapers, directions, and other reading materials.
2. Encourage your child to help write grocery lists, to-do lists, notes, directions, material lists, and accurate phone messages.
3. Have your child start a writer's notebook to record observations, quotes, favorite words, words that need definitions, and interesting ideas to write about.
4. Encourage your child to keep a daily journal to record thoughts, feelings, and happenings. The journal doesn't have to be fancy. A simple notebook works as well as commercially produced journals.
5. Provide interesting writing materials such as gel pens, felt-tip pens, calligraphy pens, colored pencils, sticky notes, small note pads, fancy stationery, homemade papers, and colored papers.
6. Encourage written personal correspondence (thank you notes, friendly letters, invitations) as well as business correspondence (requests, inquiries, complaints) in both hand-written and word-processed formats.
7. Create a scrapbook of a vacation, a family outing, a school trip, or a school year. Have your child write an introduction, headings, picture captions, and titles.
8. Help your child find an e-mail buddy or form a writing alliance with a relative or friend. Be sure to provide different media for communication, such as stationery, postcards, greeting cards and colorful paper.
9. Help your child to create word games, such as completing an analogy, writing a tongue twister, or making up rhymes or riddles. Play commercial word games such as Scrabble, Boggle, and crossword puzzles.  
puzzles.