

Parent Card

Encouraging Writing

To ensure that your child is encouraged to become a writer, consider the following questions.

- Does my child see others writing at various times?
- Does my child see me writing?
- When I am writing, do I talk about whom I am writing for and why I am writing?
- Is a place provided where my child can sit and write?
- Does my child have large blank paper to write on and a variety of writing materials?
- Do I encourage my child to hold a pencil correctly?
- Do I talk about print I see in the environment, e.g. *signs outside shops, traffic signs?*
- Do I talk about all the print I use in the home environment, such as calendars, diaries, TV guides, catalogues, newspapers, instructions, and cookbooks?
- Is my child encouraged to take notice of print, e.g. *find words they know such as a Stop sign starts with the letter 's'?*
- Do I display my child's attempts at writing, perhaps by displaying them on the refrigerator or wall?
- Do I praise and value all attempts at writing, and see it as 'real' writing?
- Is my child read to every day?
- Is my child encouraged to join in when being read to, e.g. *turning the pages, holding the book, reading the parts they remember?*
- Is my child encouraged to act out or retell stories he or she has heard?