

# Help your child DrawTalkWrite



## Draw

Drawing is fun and helps children explore their world.



You can support your child to draw.

- Encourage them to draw, and talk to you about their drawings.
- Provide them with tools for drawing, such as paper, pencils, textas, paint and chalk.
- Draw with them and add labels to some of their drawings.
- Load free drawing apps onto your tablet or phone for them to use.

Drawing is an important form of play.  
Drawing helps children learn to write.

## Talk

Talking helps children to become confident users of language.



You can support your child to talk.

- Encourage them to talk about the things that interest them in the books you read to them.
- Encourage them to tell you about their day by asking questions:
  - Who did you play with in the sandpit at preschool today?
  - What stories did the teacher read to you?
  - Did you learn any new songs?
- Listen to their ideas and have a conversation together.
- Encourage them to talk as they draw.

Talking helps children to learn the words they will need to read and write.

## Write

Writing is another way for children to communicate and express themselves.



You can support your child to write.

- Ask them if they would like you to write on their drawings.
- Teach them to write their names and show them how you write yours.
- Help them to make shopping lists, cards, invitations – the opportunities are endless.
- Let your child see you write, and talk to them about the different purposes for writing.

Writing and drawing together encourages children to create more detailed texts than they can create with writing alone.

# What you can do

## You can help your child to become a writer:

- Read three to five books with them every day.
- Take them places that will feed their imagination, such as a park, a playground, a farm, a zoo, a beach, your local library or a local show. Talk to them about the experience.
- Encourage them to draw and to talk with you about their drawings.
- Show them how you write (with a pen, on the computer, tablet or phone).
- Teach them how to write their name and, if they are interested, how to write other people's names.
- Encourage them to write birthday cards, invitations or recipes and explain the purpose.
- Draw with them.



# Want to know more?

The VCAA website's Early Years Professional Learning section has resources from Dr Noella Mackenzie's presentation at a VCAA and the Bastow Institute seminar.

Dr Mackenzie presented on how drawing and writing can be viewed as a unified system of meaning.

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/earlyyears/profdev/index.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/earlyyears/profdev/index.aspx)

## For further information

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