

## Tips to Share with Families

- The more we write, the better we write. Encourage your child to write and let your child see you write.
- Language play and writing can be fun—in fact, they should be fun. Have fun with language and share language play with your child. Play naming games, sound games (e.g., finding words that rhyme or begin with the same sound), and word scavenger hunts (e.g., find a particular word in your local environment).
- When your child shares writing with you, rejoice in the effort she put into the piece.
- When you read your child’s writing, feel free to ask questions about parts that aren’t clear, but resist the temptation to be critical. Encourage, rather than correct.
- Offer a wide variety of opportunities to read, both educational and entertaining texts. Talk about those things that you have both read. Read aloud to your child, encourage your child to read silently and independently, invite your child to read aloud to you, and read texts aloud together.
- Read all sorts of material aloud: billboards, signs, flyers, brochures, letters, commercials, ads, magazines, newspapers, comics, software dialog boxes, Web pages.
- Spend time each school day discussing what happened in school that day with your child. What did she work on? How did she work? What did she enjoy? Encourage her to tell you lots of interesting details about a short period of time or a single event to increase her focus on specific information and memory.
- Write together, creating grocery or shopping lists, to-do lists, messages to family members, and so forth. Encourage your child to write her own notes and lists independently as well.
- Students make age-appropriate errors in spelling, grammar, and usage. Look for patterns in their errors and discuss the pattern rather than simply “correcting” her work. Always feel free to ask the teacher if you are not sure about an error that you see.
- Provide a special folder or notebook for your child and encourage her to save her writing and other work in it. Nothing can replace the good feeling of reading something we wrote months ago and rediscovering how good it is (or how much we have learned since!).