

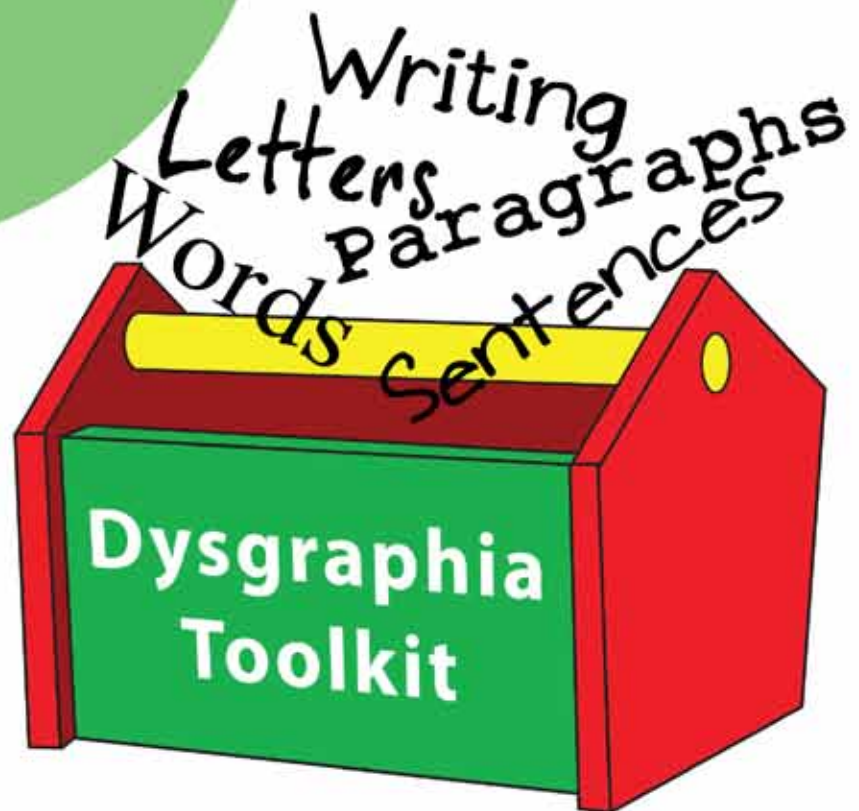
SKU: 1473

Dysgraphia Toolkit

How Singing, Playing Games and
Other Fun Activities Can Help
Defeat Writing Disabilities

Elementary Grades

Linda Silbert, PhD
Alvin J. Silbert, EdD



A STRONG Learning Centers® Handbook for Parents
www.StrongLearning.com

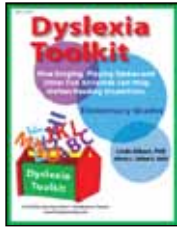
Dysgraphia Toolkit

How Singing, Playing Games and Other Fun Activities
Can Help Defeat Writing Disabilities

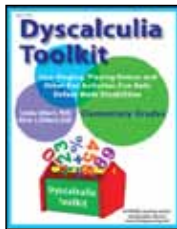
Elementary Grades

by Linda Silbert, PhD and Alvin J. Silbert, EdD

Other Titles in the Series



Dyslexia Toolkit: How Singing, Playing Games, and Other Fun Activities Can Help Defeat Reading Disabilities by Linda Silbert, PhD and Alvin J. Silbert, EdD



Dyscalculia Toolkit: How Singing, Playing Games, and Other Fun Activities Can Help Defeat Math Disabilities by Linda Silbert, PhD and Alvin J. Silbert, EdD

Dysgraphia Toolkit
ISBN 0-89544-473-9 (print version)
Copyright © Linda & Al Silbert. All rights reserved.
STRONG Learning Centers® Trademark Registered U.S. Patent Office

For Information, write or call
Strong Learning, Inc.
tel: 1-888-3STRONG or 845-628-7910
email: info@StrongLearning.com
www.StrongLearning.com

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form whatsoever, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any informational storage or retrieval system without express written, dated, and signed permission from the authors.

WAIVER: You agree to take full responsibility for your own well-being and that of your child(ren) or students. You agree to hold harmless Dr. Linda Silbert and Dr. Al Silbert (herein referred to as the authors) or Strong Learning, Inc. for any side effects or results from the use of this information.

DISCLAIMER AND/OR LEGAL NOTICES: The information presented herein represents the view of the authors as of the date of publication. Because of the rate with which conditions change, the authors reserve the right to alter and update their opinions based on the new conditions. This publication is for informational purposes only. While every attempt has been made to verify the information provided herein, neither the authors nor their affiliates/partners assume any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, or omissions. Any slights of people or organizations are unintentional. If advice concerning legal or related matters is needed, the services of a fully qualified professional should be sought. This handout is not intended to be used as a source of legal, medical or accounting advice. You should be aware of any laws, which govern business transactions or other business practices in your country and state. Any reference to any person or business whether living or dead is purely coincidental.

Dear Teachers and Parents,

Extensive research has shown that children learn best when they are engaged and having fun. That's why every activity in this guide is designed for children to have fun while learning to write. Whether children are singing silly songs, witting poems, playing games, or making paper chains, their writing improves because they are *actively* writing and having fun.

Having fun is especially important for children who have dysgraphia. Not only do these children have difficulty writing, but their self-esteem is usually poor as a result. Why wouldn't it be? While their peers are writing lengthy papers with correct punctuation, perfect spelling, and beautiful penmanship, they're writing three word sentences because writing is difficult, painful, and risky, because of all the inevitable mistakes.

They may be outstanding writers with wonderful stories to tell, but they hate to write because writing is so hard for them. Since self-esteem develops around the same time a child learns to write, these children experience an ongoing attack on their self-esteem. Therefore, it's critical that they have as much fun as possible while learning to write. By having fun, they'll practice more, improve more quickly and feel good about themselves.

This toolkit is a resource that we hope you'll keep and refer to often. Every activity is designed to be used over and over again by children of all ages and all levels to help improve their writing skills.

Some activities are more appropriate for children first learning to write a complete sentence, and some activities are more appropriate for young writers who needs help with grammar and punctuation. Adapt the activities as appropriate by introducing such elements as parts of speech, writing rules and structure as the child progresses.

Our best wishes to you and your blossoming young writers.

Dr. Linda and Dr. Al

<http://www.stronglearning.com>

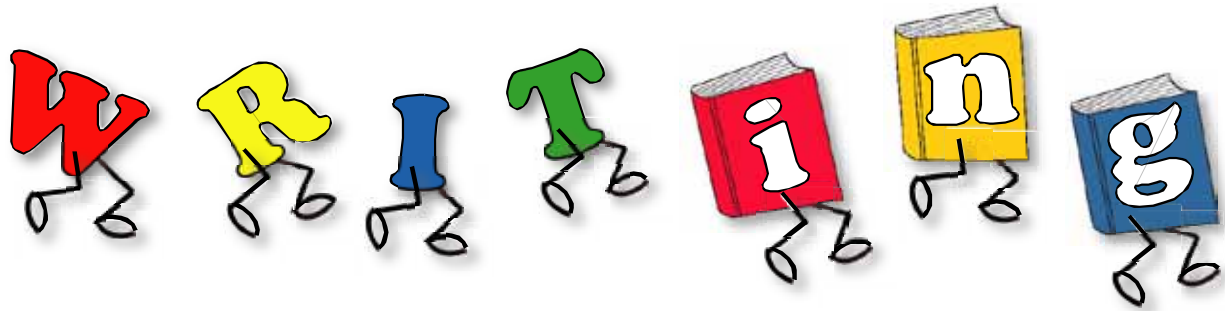
<http://drlindasblog.com>

Benefits of Using the Dysgraphia Toolkit

This toolkit gives you ideas and activities to insure that your child develops strong writing skills. You'll discover how to help your child express ideas, opinions and thoughts in a creative and mature way. And the activities are fun to do year round.

Use the activities in this toolkit to help your child:

- Develop a more positive self-image.
- Explore a variety of writing opportunities
- Grow intellectually.
- Develop creative thinking skills.
- Learn to write for enjoyment without stress and tears.
- Improve the ability to communicate.



What is Writing? What is Good Writing?

The word “writing” has two distinct meanings. It means the physical process of forming letters and words. It’s also how we communicate with letters and words. We’ll discuss both.

For most people, the physical act of writing becomes natural, automatic, and easy during grade school. This isn’t the case for those with *dysgraphia*, a writing disorder that makes physical writing difficult, tedious and often painful.

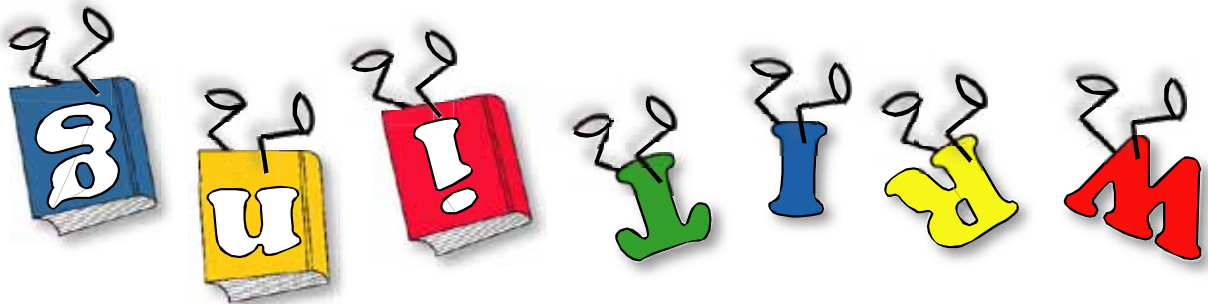
So what is good writing? It’s a tough question. Unlike math or science, writing has no set answers, no true or false, no formulas. To make matters worse, English teachers have their own ideas about what good writing is and not all of them agree!

Some worry mostly about grammar. Others want to see how well we can express ourselves in original or creative, ways. Some want us to follow the five-paragraph formula, while others want us to write more freely. Although this can be very frustrating, children have to learn how to write well.

The good news is almost every English teacher agrees on certain keys to good writing.

Keys to Good Writing

1. Following accepted standards of punctuation, capitalization and spelling
2. Choosing appropriate vocabulary
3. Using correct grammar
4. Writing in a way that expresses ideas, opinions and thoughts in a creative and mature way.



What do I do if my child has trouble writing?

Difficulties communicating thoughts

When a child experiences difficulty communicating their thoughts in writing, the cause of the difficulty needs to be identified from the four keys of good writing listed above. Once the cause or causes are identified, the child can be taught strategies to overcome or compensate for any weakness or disability.

Here are three tips to help children communicate their thoughts:

- If your child has difficulty expressing his thoughts, you may help by asking questions, for example, “Why?” “What do you mean by that?” or “That sounds great. What else can you tell me about it?” (These questions give your child helpful feedback without being critical.)
- Initially, your child may prefer that you write the answers. If so, say that you’d be happy to write the answers. As your child gains confidence, she’ll start writing her own answers.
- If the child requests spelling help, you should provide it. We do encourage good spelling, grammar and punctuation. However, the rules of writing shouldn’t interfere with the goal of writing to express ideas, opinions and thoughts.

Difficulties with the physical process of writing

When children experience difficulty with the process of writing at the age when their peers are writing comfortably, they may have a writing disorder called “dysgraphia.”

What is Dysgraphia?

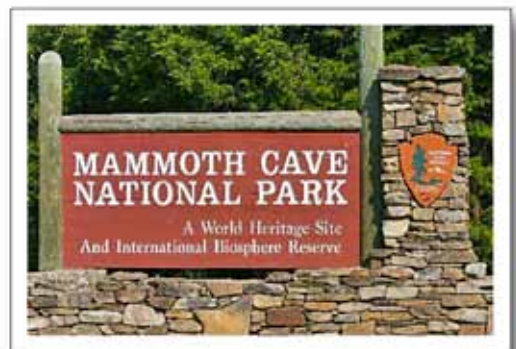
Dysgraphia is a writing disorder that makes writing difficult and often painful. According to the DSM-IV, dysgraphia, known as a “Disorder of Written Expression,” is a combination of excessively poor handwriting, multiple spelling errors, grammatical and/or punctuation errors within sentences and poor paragraph organization.

If a child has only spelling errors or only poor handwriting, the problem isn't serious enough to be diagnosed as dysgraphia. Dysgraphia is rarely diagnosed before the end of first grade and is usually found in combination with a reading or math disorder. If a child's difficulties are severe enough after being evaluated by a qualified professional, the child can be classified and receive support to help with his school work.

Writing Sample of a Child With Dysgraphia (See Next Page)

To a child with dysgraphia, the typical assignment of writing about "What I did during my summer vacation" has disaster written all over it. Think about this as you try to read the writing of one of our 8th grade students. He wrote about his family trip to Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky. This sample is his *best* handwriting. He worked very hard to get it this neat. It took him a long time. In addition, it was very painful for him to write this much.

Note: I've added the few words and marks that are in color.



My Family Trip to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky

By C.C., 8th Grader

Once upon a time there was
a great battle between
human and mammoth. The
cave men ~~walked~~ ^{heard} the
footsteps. One day after
~~looking~~ ^{they} they finally found
the animals' location. Since these
animals were strong there
no normal ^{methods} methods wouldn't
work. So after getting there
weapons ready the fight began.
It was ~~emense~~ ^{intense} they manage
to take down some mammoth but
they fought back. They also
took some of the people. After
a day of fighting the cave men
have won. That night they
had a feast. But that was not
the last of the mammoth.

What do I do if I Think My Child Has Dysgraphia

If you believe your child may have dysgraphia, contact his teacher, his school counselor, the school psychologist or the principal. Any of these people can recommend an evaluation. You can also mention it to your pediatrician who can refer you to a qualified person for an evaluation outside of the school.

If your child is diagnosed with dysgraphia, support is available. The type of support and services depends on the severity of the dysgraphia and the age of the child.

Here are four suggestions:

- Learn keyboarding and word processing. This gives children the benefits of spell check and grammar suggestions without having to worry about the mechanics of writing and penmanship.
- Dictate lengthy writing assignments to an adult. The adult can write out or use word processing for the text. The text can then be copied as the final paper if handwritten papers are required. It's useful to place a sticky-note above the line being copied.
- Learn sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation.
- Ask that spelling be omitted as part of the grade. If this isn't possible, suggest that spelling be a separate grade so the paper isn't penalized for spelling errors.

Should I correct my child's spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes in the Toolkit activities?

Of course, we encourage the use of proper grammar, punctuation and good spelling but never at the expense of improving writing skills through fun activities. So, proceed with caution when using that red pen.

Many children and adults never write up to their potential because some well-meaning adults became so focused on the spelling, grammar and punctuation that they had them rewrite papers over and over again. Some may have even crumpled up their kid's (or

student's) papers and thrown them in the waste basket in a dramatic show of rejection. As a result, many children and adults avoid writing anything but short sentences. Some are so traumatized that they stop writing altogether.

Show your child how to use computer programs and built-in tools to help with spelling, grammar and punctuation. If your child is open to constructive criticism, editing papers together is a wonderful learning experience. However, if your child is reluctant to take any advice, cannot sit still to listen or becomes upset, take notice and walk away. It's more important to feel free to communicate through writing than become paralyzed worrying over every tiny detail.

Sally's Story

Sally was in seventh grade when I met her. Her mom was an executive in a large company and was forever writing reports and memos. She was a great writer and a strong administrator. Sally, an average student, went to school because she had to. By the time we met, Sally and Mom barely spoke to each other. Everything Sally wrote was scrutinized and edited by Mom. After Mom's touch, Sally had to rewrite it. And if it wasn't neat enough, she had to write it again.

After meeting with Sally, I told her that she was a great writer. She was creative and had very mature thoughts. However, she had become almost paralyzed when she had to write a paper for school. Unfortunately, without realizing it, her mom and caused Sally to shut down.

I gave Sally and Mom some homework. Sally was to write the next school paper without any help from Mom. In fact, I told Mom not to look at it. Two days after I gave them that assignment, I received a frantic call from Mom at 9:00 P.M. It seems that when Sally went to bed, Mom rummaged through her daughter's backpack and found the paper she was handing in the next day.

“I can’t let her hand this in. The punctuation is horrible, the spelling is horrible and grammar is horrible. She’s never going to learn how to write using your method. I’m going to have her redo this in the morning!”

My advice: PUT that paper back in her book bag and pretend you never saw it.

Mom put the paper back and never mentioned it to Sally.

Sally got a C+ on the paper and was as proud as can be. The teacher commented that she loved her paper because she wrote with style and included many interesting facts. The teacher also invited Sally to meet with her to work on the punctuation, spelling and grammar. If she agreed, the teacher said that she would raise the grade. Sally wasn’t interested. She was just happy that the teacher liked her thoughts.

Today Sally is a professional musician who emails me often. Her writing skills are excellent. She laughs about taking some great writing courses in college. She enjoyed them but preferred her music courses. And Mom did eventually help out with some of her papers but only when Sally asked for advice.

Activity 1: Write Fun Poems

Haiku

One of the oldest forms of poetry is haiku. They are usually poems about nature. A haiku poem has three lines. The first line has 5 syllables. The 2nd line has 7 syllables, and the 3rd line has 5 syllables.

Example:

Spring Flowers

Flow/ers blos/som/ing – 5 syllables

Ros/es, tu/lips, blue pan/sies – 7 syllables

Green grass, pink pet/als – 5 syllables.

@ Now you try it. Write a haiku poem for each of the three titles.

1. Write a haiku poem about snow.

Snow

2. Write a haiku poem about rain.

Rain

3. Write a haiku poem about an animal.

(Your Title) _____

Acrostics

Write your name vertically on a page. Then describe yourself by writing a word that begins with each letter. For short names, use your middle or last name too. Use positive words.

Example: Michael

Musical

Intelligent

Cute

Humorous

Athletic

Energetic

Lively

Example: Barbara

Beautiful

Artistic

Responsible

Bright eyed

Ambitious

Reader

A thletic

Diamante poems

A diamante is a seven-line poem shaped like a diamond. This is the simple form.

Line 1. Write one word (a noun, the subject of this poem).

Line 2. Write two words (adjectives) that describe line 1.

Line 3. Write three words (action verbs ending in ing) that relate to line 1.

Line 4. Write four words (nouns) that relate to line 1.

Line 5. Write three words (other action verbs ending in ing) that relate to line 1.

Line 6. Write two words (other adjectives) that describe line 1.

Line 7. Write one word (either repeat the noun you started with or use a synonym).

Example:



Diamante poems—contrasting

This version begins with a subject and ends with a contrasting subject (which encourages analytical thinking, too).

Line 1. Write one word (a noun which contrasts with the word on line 7).

Line 2. Write two words (adjectives) that describe line 1.

Line 3. Write three words (action verbs ending in ing) that relate to line 1.

Line 4. Write four words (nouns). This first two relate to line 1, the others to line 7.

Line 5. Write three words (action verbs ending in ing) that relate to line 7.

Line 6. Write two words (adjectives) that describe line 7.

Line 7. Write one word (the contrasting noun to line 1).

Example:



Activity 3: The Interview



Pretend that you are being interviewed on a television talk show. The topic of the day is: *The time you had the most fun.* How would you answer each question?

Host: It's always fun to remember good times. What was the best time you ever had?

You: _____

Host: When did this happen?

You: _____

Host: Where were you at the time?

You: _____

Host: Who were you with at the time?

You: _____

Host: Why was this time so much fun?

You: _____

Activity 4: Your Magazine Article



Pretend that you are a writer for a popular magazine. Write a brief magazine article about a famous person who has the same first name, last name, or initials as yours. You may wish to obtain some information about that person from an encyclopedia, magazine, newspaper or book. Illustrate your article if you wish.

Handwriting practice area consisting of multiple horizontal lines. The first section contains 15 lines. The second section contains 10 lines. To the right of the second section is a large empty rectangular box for an illustration.

Activity 5: Your Advice Column

ADVICE FROM _____
Fill in your name.

Pretend that you write an advice column for a local newspaper. How would you answer the letter below?

Dear Wise Person,
I have a problem. I hope that you will be able to give me some advice. I am 10 years old. It is almost December and I want to buy my mother, father, and 8 year old brother presents for the holiday.
My problem is that I have no money. I love them very much and I want to give each one something special. What should I do? Please help.

Yours truly,
I.H. Confused



Activity 6: The Magic Genie Gift

MAGIC GENIE

Pretend that you are a magic genie. You have the power to give one wish to every person who is special to you. Write the names of some of these people. Then write the wish you would give to each person on your list.

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Person: _____ Wish: _____

Suppose you were only a junior-genie and had just one wish to give. What one wish would you give to everybody? _____

Activity 7: A Souvenir of Your Town

A SOUVENIR OF YOUR TOWN

A souvenir tells a story about the place from which it comes. Some souvenirs are natural while others are man made. What souvenir can you think of that best describes the town in which you live? _____

What story does this souvenir tell about your town? _____

Of all the people you know, who would really enjoy receiving this souvenir as a gift? _____

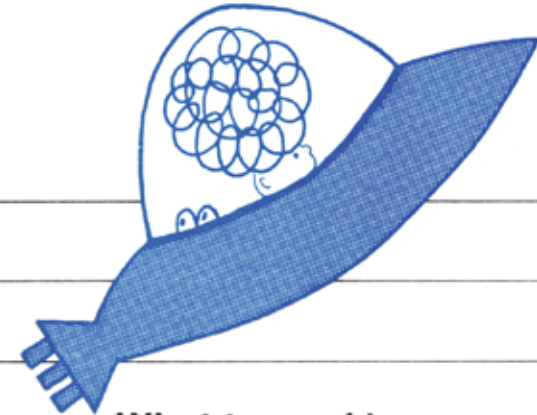
If it is possible to do so, you may enjoy sending this souvenir to this person.



Activity 8: Living in Outer Space



NAME _____ DATE _____



What would happen if everyone lived in space? _____

What type of houses would they live in? _____

What type of clothing would they wear? _____

What type of food would people eat? _____

How would people travel? _____



Activity 9: Living Under Water

NAME _____ DATE _____



What would happen if everyone
lived under water? _____

Where would people live? _____

What games would children play? _____

Activity 13: Writing for Pennies

Directions:

1. Write ten or more nouns, one each on small pieces of paper and place them in a hat.
2. The child selects one word from the hat and writes a sentence that contains that noun.
3. The child receives a penny (or a jelly bean) for each word in the sentence.



For example, let's say the child selects the word "boat" and writes, "The boat was in the water." She would then receive 6 pennies, one penny for each word.

4. The child selects another noun, and writes another sentence to accumulate more pennies.

More Advanced

6. At some point you can encourage the child to use describing words (adjectives and adverbs) in order to receive more pennies per sentence.

For example, "The large white motor boat quickly sped through the glistening blue water." (12 pennies)

7. At some point you can introduce conjunctions to increase words.

For example, "The large white motor boat and the little red row boat raced over the waves in the blue water" or "The large white motor boat sped through the water because the men in the boat saw a large ship coming towards it."

Even More Advanced

8. Eventually, the child can select two or more words or more and work from one sentence to two and then to paragraphs.
9. A fun addition to this game is to trade in the pennies for a special toy or larger coins to save in a piggy bank.

Activity 14: Pass the Paper

Players: 2 or more

The players decide upon a title for a story and take minute-long turns writing the story. For example, “The Runaway Cat” or “The Magic Rainbow.”

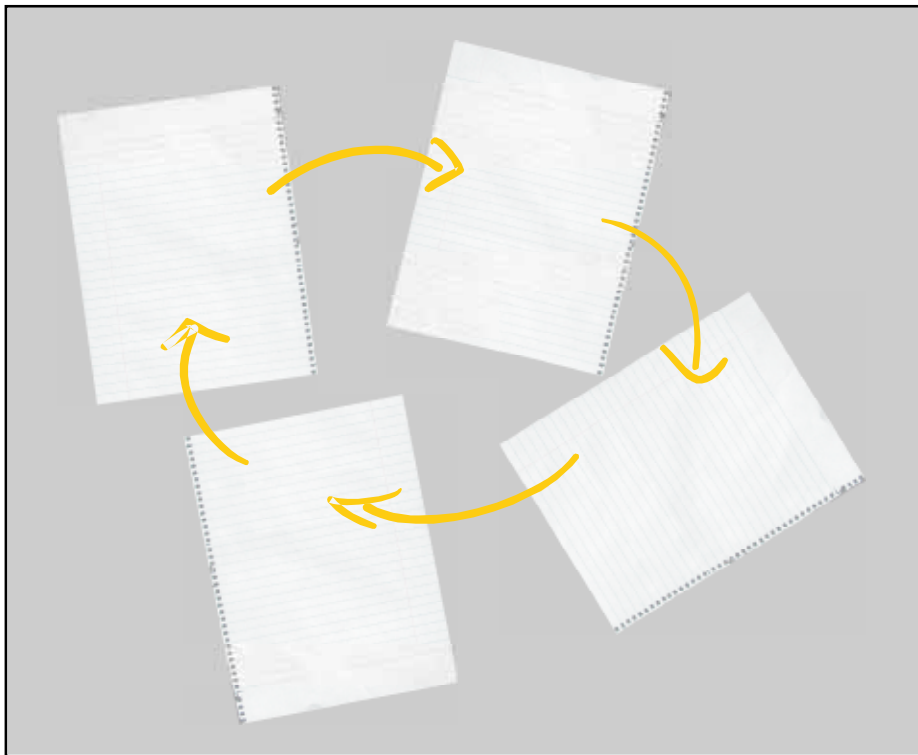
The players decide who will be the first writer to start the story, and second and so on.

Use a timer or stopwatch to measure one-minute intervals.

The timer starts and the first player begins to write.

As soon as the timer goes off (one minute has passed), the first player stops writing and hands the paper and pen to the next player who continues the story.

Continue passing the paper until the page is full, or until the story has a reasonable ending.



Strong Learning

WRITING AWARD

Presented to: _____

For Outstanding Progress in Writing

Date: _____

Linda Silbert, PhD & Al Silbert, EdD • www.StrongLearning.com

Leave Your Feedback

We appreciate your feedback. <mailto:Linda@StrongLearning.com>

Find A Qualified Tutor In Your Area:

Strong Learning, Inc. Phone: 1-888-3STRONG Website: <http://www.stronglearning.com>

Important Links

Get short, quick, use-today tips to help your child with everything from phonics to test-taking to study skills. Sign up for these tips at <http://drlindasblog.com/sign-up>. You'll also get Dr. Linda's monthly newsletter, the first chapter of our book "Why Bad Grades Happen to Good Kids," and 25 Homework Tips.

For information, stories, and articles about School Success for your child, go to <http://DrLindasBlog.com>. Leave your comments too. We love to hear from you. Join our School Success community.

To sign up for future TeleWebcasts and other School Success events, go to <http://DrLindasBlog.com>

For private tutoring and educational products, go to <http://www.StrongLearning.com>
Telephone: 1-888-3STRONG

International Dyslexia Association (IDA) Learn about remediation options
<http://www.interdys.org>

The Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) Learn about learning disabilities and remediation options <http://www.LDANatl.org/>

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder (CHADD) Learn about attention deficit disorder and remediation options <http://www.chadd.org>

ADDitude magazine online offers comprehensive resources for parents whose children have ADHD. Includes monthly articles by experts such as Dr. Edward Hallowell, school success tips, parenting strategies, information on learning disabilities, a forum where you can chat with other parents, and blogs. You can sign up to get email alerts for new articles, news and information. <http://www.additudemag.com>

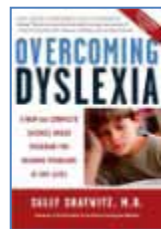
Recommended Resources for Parents & Teachers

Click on links to view details & reviews. Free shipping on orders over \$25 from Amazon.com



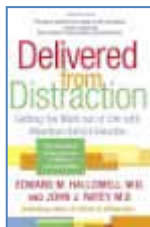
[Why Bad Grades Happen to Good Kids](#), by Linda Silbert, PhD and Alvin J. Silbert, EdD
~~\$13.95~~ Price: **\$10.67** Save: \$3.28 (24%)

"Why do bad grades happen to good kids? ... All I can say is look no further than this wonderful book. It doesn't matter what type of grades your child has achieved - this book is just one of those things you should read regardless of anything else. It makes you think and see problems so much more clearly than you did before." "A well-written book with a bright intriguing cover, packed with useful advice to cherish and share with others."



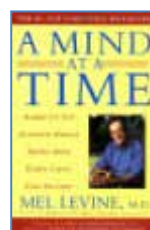
[Overcoming Dyslexia: A New and Complete Science - Based Program for Reading Problems at Any Level](#) by Sally Shaywitz M.D. ~~\$16.95~~ Price: **\$11.53** Save: \$5.42 (32%)

Yale neuroscientist Shaywitz demystifies the roots of dyslexia (a neurologically based reading difficulty affecting one in five children) and offers parents and educators hope that children with reading problems can be helped. Shaywitz's groundbreaking work builds an important bridge from the laboratory to the home and classroom.



[Delivered from Distraction: Getting the Most out of Life with Attention Deficit Disorder](#) by Edward M. Hallowell M.D. & John J. Ratey M.D. ~~\$15.00~~ Price: **\$10.20** Save: \$4.80 (32%)

... personal testimony regarding adult Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) as well a very readable presentation of the latest research in the field. Defining ADD as a collection of traits, some positive, some negative, the authors intend to encourage those who have this condition or are raising children with it and advise on how to maximize their abilities and minimize characteristics that may hinder them at school or work. An excellent resource.

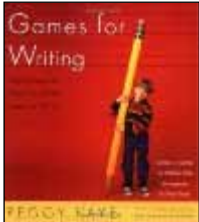


[A Mind at a Time](#) by Mel Levine \$15.00 Price: \$8.94 Save: \$6.06 (40%)

Recognizing each child's intellectual, emotional, and physical strengths--and teaching directly to these strengths--is key to sculpting "a mind at a time." Based on his work with children who have learning or behavioral problems, Levine has isolated eight areas of learning (the memory system, the language system, the spatial ordering system, the motor system, etc.). ...describing how each type of learning works and advises parents and teachers on how to help kids struggling in these areas. a must-read for parents and educators who want to understand and improve the school lives of children.

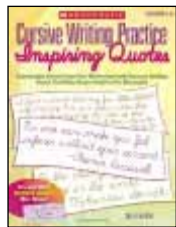
Recommended Writing Resources for Kids

Click on links to view details & reviews. Free shipping on orders over \$25 from Amazon.com



[Games for Writing: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn to Write](#) by Peggy Kaye
~~\$16.00~~ Price: **\$10.33** Save: \$5.67 (35%). Grades K-3.

More than fifty ways to help children K through 3rd grade become skilled, confident, and enthusiastic writers. She suggests starting kindergartners off with "wribbling" --a writing method combining scribbling and writing; then she moves on to story maps, followed by word games. A great tool for teachers, too.



[Cursive Writing Practice: Inspiring Quotes: Reproducible Activity Pages With Motivational and Character-Building Quotes That Make Handwriting Practice Meaningful](#) by Jane Lierman
~~\$10.99~~ Price: **\$8.79** Save: \$2.20 (20%). Grades 3-6.

This collection of 40 quotes motivates students to practice cursive. Each practice page includes a memorable quote printed in DeNealian script and a lined guide for copying the quote. The bottom of the page is designed so that students can cut out and collect the favorite to create a quote mini-book. Includes famous quotes from historic figures.

Strategies for Lefties



[Your Left-handed Child: Making Things Easy for Left-Handers in a Right-Handed World](#) by Lauren Milsom
~~\$14.95~~ Price: **\$10.17** Save: \$4.78 (32%). Resource.

Being a left-handed isn't easy. A wealth of information-simple but effective strategies to help kids, from the very young to teenagers, overcome the many hurdles they encounter at school and home. Find out how to guide young children as they master handwriting, getting dressed, and using cutlery, and older ones in more complex tasks like handling woodworking tools and playing guitar or sports. With her invaluable advice, left-handed children will be confident and capable, and left-handedness need never become an issue.

Motor Skills



[Ready to Use Fine Motor Skills & Handwriting Activities for Young Children](#) by Joanne M. Landy & Keith R. Burridge
~~\$29.95~~ Price: **\$17.86** Save: \$12.09 (40%). Resource.

This practical series is designed to help early childhood teachers, P.E. specialists, special educators, and therapists develop and improve motor skills abilities in all children who have coordination and movement difficulties, ages 5 and up. Includes hundreds of developmentally age-appropriate activities to build young children's competence and confidence in specific skills in a positive, enjoyable learning environment.

Punctuation and Grammar



[Painless Grammar](#) by Rebecca Elliott Ph.D. Price: **\$9.99**. Grades 8-12 & up.

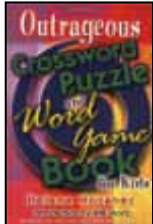
This very approachable text combines instruction in parts of speech and sentence structure with down-to-earth examples, funny illustrations, and examination of some of the more amusing and peculiar words in the English language. A chapter on clear e-mail communication and etiquette is brand new in this edition, as are many of the author's challenging "Brain Ticklers." Her helpful chapter on how to edit a school paper has also been heavily revised and updated.

Spelling



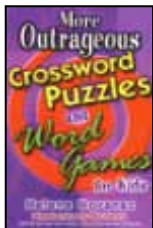
[33 Ways to Help with Spelling: Supporting Children who Struggle with Basic Skills](#) by Heather Morris & Sue Smith ~~\$31.95~~ Price: **\$29.03** Save: \$2.92 (9%). Resource for Parents and Teachers. Primary grades and up.

33 Ways to Help with Spelling equips parents, teachers, and teacher's aids with a wide range of practical resources to help children who are having difficulties learning the basic skills of spelling. Offering a range of activities and games to engage and motivate children. Activities include auditory and visual mnemonics, phonetics and tactile tasks. Emphasis on 'games' rather than 'work'.



[The Outrageous Crossword Puzzle and Word Game Book for Kids](#) by Helene Hovanec & Will Shortz Price: **\$7.95**

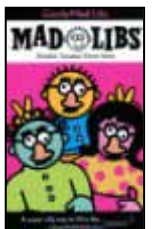
This brand-new collection of word searches, fill-in-the-blanks, crossword puzzles, and word scrambles is just for you! Full of riddles and jokes, these puzzles are not only fun, but funny, too. A special introduction by Will Shortz, the crossword editor of The New York Times, points out just how fun these games can be.



[More Outrageous Crossword Puzzles and Word Games for Kids](#) by Helene Hovanec & Will Shortz. Price: **\$7.95**

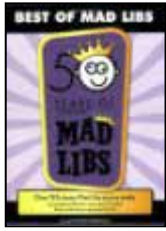
This second collection features zany crossword puzzles and awesome word games by acclaimed children's puzzle book author Helene Hovanec is chock-full of fun. With plenty of riddles and puns, kids will groan happily while solving a diverse range of puzzles. NY Times crossword puzzle editor Will Shortz writes a funny introduction to begin the book, followed by a special tricks of the trade primer designed to help kids solve each and every puzzle.

Parts of Speech



[Goofy Mad Libs](#) by Roger Price. Price: **\$3.99**

Be your own comedy writer! The idea is simple. Someone asks for a part of speech: a verb, a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. We've included definitions and examples of the parts of speech in case you've forgotten. Players call out their ideas to fill in the blanks and in the end, you have a story reeling from one silly sentence to another until nothing makes sense. That's what you call a Mad Lib®, the world's greatest word game. Players have been howling with friends or laughing all to themselves for over 35 years!



[Best of Mad Libs](#) by Roger Price. Price: **\$6.99**

A hilarious way to read, write, and giggle. Over the last 50 years, Price Stern Sloan has published hundreds and hundreds of Mad Libs stories. Come fill out over 125 of the funniest ones in this deluxe oversize edition. This book also includes a history of the game as told by the creator Leonard Stern (complete with pictures) and stories filled out by today's hottest stars!

Learning Keyboarding



[Typing Instructor For Kids Platinum](#) (Windows/Mac) by Individual Software, Inc. Platform: Windows Vista / 7, Mac OS X ~~\$49.99~~ Price: **\$17.89** Save: \$2.10 (11%)

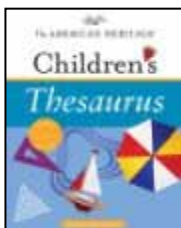
The Exciting Way for Kids to Learn to Type! Kids learn to type on an exciting adventure on Typer Island. They learn all keyboard basics following an age-appropriate Typing Plan. Step-by-step lessons, challenges, tests, and games motivate kids to keep typing their way around the Island to reach the Castle, advance to the Lost City, and become touch-typists! Kids can learn in English or Spanish.

Dictionary & Thesaurus



[Merriam-Webster Children's Dictionary](#) [Hardcover] by DK Publishing ~~\$24.99~~ Price: **\$14.95** Save: \$7.04 (32%). Grades 3-6 up.

846 pages of definitions with crisp, clear photographs illustrating many of the words plus 66 pages of additional information, including maps, easy-to-use how-to guide, and a reference section with facts and maps of the continents, pictures of flags from countries around the world, U.S. presidents and vice presidents, pronunciation guides, signs and symbols, and lots more. For ease of use, colored alphabet runs down the outer edges, with the featured letter highlighted for easy reference when flipping through.



[The American Heritage Children's Thesaurus](#) [Hardcover] by Paul Hellweg Professor ~~\$18.95~~ Price: **\$12.89** Save: \$6.06 (32%). Grades 2-6.

Everything you'd expect from a children's thesaurus--4,000 words with over 36,000 synonyms--but it is unusually clear and colorfully presented. Each deep purple entry includes its part of speech in italics, and lists the suggested synonyms in bold, best matches first. Each word is used in a sentence to clarify its meaning. Color photographs are sprinkled throughout for visual relief, and "Antonyms" and "Word Groups" boxes help expand vocabulary choices. A fun-to-use antidote to overused words and phrases.