# World of Writing

A supportive resource from the Hawai‘i Association of School Psychologists (HASP)

Writing is a tool for thinking, expression, and creativity. Writing instruction leads to improved reading fluency and comprehension. However, its benefits stretch beyond literacy development. Writing can help the brain to develop the logical functions required for math and science learning, and it can strengthen communication and fine motor skills. Expressive writing has also been linked to improved mood, well-being, and reduced stress levels. Put thought to paper this week with these daily activities!

**COVID-19 Support | Issue 7 | Week: May 18th - 22nd**

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<td>Many keiki (and adults) are reluctant writers. It is a challenging activity that requires sequencing, communication, and fine motor skills. Writing is considered to be one of the most prominent areas of underachievement and getting students motivated to write can be difficult. Let's motivate keiki and show them that writing can be fun! Activity: Engage the family in one (or more) of these entertaining writing activities. Some keiki may find the &quot;How to Make the Most Disgusting Sandwich in the World&quot; activity especially fun. <a href="https://www.literacyideas.com/7-fun-writing-activities-for-students">https://www.literacyideas.com/7-fun-writing-activities-for-students</a></td>
<td>Writing can be a creative, imaginative, and productive way to express feelings! Many poets and authors use journal writing to document their lives, feelings, dreams, and wishes. Activity: Have keiki explore and express their emotions through journal writing! See the Resources section for prompt ideas. Be sure to write about both positive and negative emotions.</td>
<td>Coloring and drawing help develop early writing skills, and many keiki have a natural interest in these activities. Encourage artistry today! Activity: Have keiki draw their future selves. What characteristics do they see? What job do they have? Where do they live, and what is their family like? Ask questions!</td>
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**THURSDAY**

Writing and storytelling go hand-in-hand. Storytelling is a great way to teach cultural traditions, and Hawai‘i is rich in diverse cultures! Activity: Tell keiki a story from their cultural heritage! Have them write or draw the story as you tell it. Encourage questions. Alternatively, learn about a different culture and write or draw their traditions. This not only builds writing skills, but also teaches about diversity!
Many keiki may find joy in writing a story about their lives and family! This can encourage open communication, teach keiki about their family history, and strengthen relationships. It also provides opportunities for keiki to ask questions about where they come from. Creating your family’s story can be an ongoing project and the final product can be saved for future generations. Spark curiosity and family pride!

Activity: Begin a family or life novel! Discuss the parts of books, such as the cover, title, author, etc. Explain that it can be added to when future important events occur. Give each family member the opportunity to contribute, and update it regularly!

Start a family gratitude journal in which each member writes down something for which they are grateful.

Try chain writing to create a story as a family. One person starts the story and writes for 2 minutes, then another family member continues the story for 2 minutes, and so on. Younger keiki may need assistance, perhaps you can write their sections as they tell them. The result is a unique family story. Encourage imagination and creativity!

Have keiki write a script, and then perform the play as a family. Designate one keiki to be the director while the rest of the family are actors.

Create a life map of the family.

Create a newspaper/magazine of each family member’s important current events. Limit exposure to the news and other possible sources of negative influence.

Have open and honest discussions. Answer any questions keiki may have while encouraging their sense of safety and security.

Allow alone time, if possible, and facilitate opportunities for self-reflection.

**Recommendations:**
https://www.readingrockets.org/article/teaching-elementary-school-students-be-effective-writers

Storytelling Activities: http://www.storyarts.org/lessonplans/lessonideas/

Emotion Writing for Kindergartners:
https://studenttreasures.com/blog/exploring-feelings-emotions-writing-activities-kindergarten-students/


Family Writing Activities:

Apps: https://www.educationalappstore.com/best-apps/writing-apps-for-kids