

A Letter to a Friend

Primary Objectives

- 7b. Uses writing and drawing tools
- 16b. Identifies letter–sound correspondences

Why It's Important

Through his experiences with writing, your child learns the differences between the various types of writing such as stories, letters, and lists. He watches you write in many different ways. He copies you by scribbling grocery lists, taking telephone messages, and writing letters. When your child has a reason to write, he will begin the process of becoming a writer.

Materials

Stationery or other paper; markers, pencils, or other writing tools; envelopes; stamps

What You Do

1. Talk with your child about why we write letters and send greeting cards. Ask your child if he would like to write a note or a get-well card to one of his friends or relatives.
2. Invite your child to explore the writing materials and think about what he would like to say in his note.
3. If needed, offer prompts to help him start his letter. *You want to write a letter to your friend Jeffrey? You can begin your letter by writing, "Dear Jeffrey."*
4. Encourage your child to write familiar letters. Assist with letter sounds needed. *What sound do you hear when you say D-D-Deer? What other letter sounds do you hear? Here is Jeffrey's name in our address book. You can use it to help you spell Jeffrey.*
5. After your child has written the greeting, encourage him to write using letter sounds, familiar letters, and environmental print to aid his writing.
6. When he finishes the letter, read it aloud together before putting it in the envelope.
7. Help your child address and stamp the envelope. Take your child to the mailbox to mail his letter.
8. Keep writing materials accessible so that your child can write another letter if he chooses.