

Write on!

Everyday ideas for the whole family

What can a parent do to encourage a child's creativity and help him or her to write expressively? Cynthia MacGregor, author of *When I Grow Up, I Want to Be a Writer*, has some personal advice for parents.

First, you can suggest your child write stories. If she says, "I don't know what to write about," give her a few ideas. Let your child write a story about her favourite character from an existing book, movie, or even comic book. Prompt the child with questions like, "What do you think happened in Cinderella's life after she married the prince?" or "Why don't you make up a story about another adventure Harry Potter and his schoolmates had?"

If your son or daughter just isn't cut out to write fiction, suggest he or she do anything to get thoughts down on paper...such as keeping a diary or a journal.

Here are some other great ideas. Your child can:

Write a letter to Grandma and tell her about his/her day or week.

Write better instructions for using a video game.

Compile a newsletter for the neighbourhood kids or distant cousins.

Write an article for the local paper on the activities of the Girl Guide unit, Scout troop or sports event.

Write an advertisement for a friend who is running for class president.

Print it out on the family computer and circulate it. Being "published" at an early age will boost not only a child's ego but also his or her interest in writing!

For exercises in writing and for more information and help, turn your child on to Cynthia MacGregor's book, [*When I Grow Up, I Want to Be a Writer*](#). The book will challenge your child's writing skills and augment his or her writing ability.
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