Family Involvement in Writing

Writing, like reading, should be a daily activity in homes. Children need to know that writing is a valued activity in the home. Therefore, writing needs to be a highly visible activity. Children need to know that stories come from real people about real events. Some ideas to help promote writing at home are reflected here.

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    erasers, tape, glue, scissors, paper hole punch, and clipboard.
o Have your child keep a list of ideas to write about. To generate ideas, have your child think about home, pets owned, favorite activities, friends, family, and important dates.
o Talk through ideas with your child. Help your child discover what he/she wants to say.
o Be a helper, not a critic. Rejoice in the effort and delight in the ideas. Emphasize the successes.
    ƒ When your child tries to write an unknown word, encourage your child to say the word slowly in order to hear all the sounds.
    ƒ Have your child listen for chunks or smaller words he/she knows that are like the unknown word.
    ƒ Remind your child of other words he/she knows that are like the unknown word.
    ƒ Have your child close his/her eyes to try to visualize what the word might look like.
o Have your child write daily. Encourage your child to keep a journal. A journal can take on many forms, but most of all, it should be a place for private ZULWLQJ , W•V -for ideas, doodles, notes, fears, dreams, wishes, plans for the future, critical comments about others, and confessional passages. Be sure to honor the privacy by sharing only that which your child wants to share.
o Keep a journal yourself to show your child the importance of recording your thoughts and experiences.
o Encourage even the youngest child to keep a journal. This could take the IRUP RI GUDZLQJV SODFHG LQ D IROGHU 5HIH
o Have a journal read aloud where each family member chooses parts of his/her journal to share with other members of the family. Even the youngest family member can share the drawings in his/her journal.