



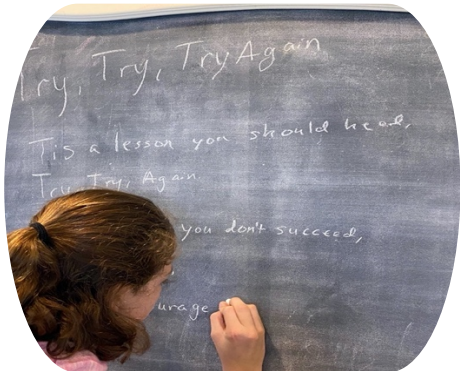
READ ALOUD A PORTION OF A BOOK

Stop and have them finish the story. Younger kids can integrate drawing pictures and adding words or sentences if they can. For older kids, enforce a paragraph minimum.



JOURNAL ENTRY

Have the child write about an experience they've had recently or give them a prompt. Google has a ton under "journal prompts." Primary Journals are perfect for K-2 kids, there is space to write and draw. Remember, drawing is writing too. They can also draw and dictate their words to you. While you are writing, you are modeling their thoughts into word formation on paper. They absorb much more than we realize.



DICTIONATION

Allow the child to pre-read a passage or poem to themselves to try and note the correct spelling, punctuation and spacing. Then, ask older kids to write while you read the passage aloud and see if they can figure out the correct punctuation, spelling and spacing without looking.



WINDOW OR MIRROR WRITING

Have children write with dry erase or chalk markers on a mirror or window. This can be dictation, copy work or creative writing. Writing on a vertical surface is good for motor development.



NATURE JOURNAL

Sketch an observation or collected treasure from a walk or by looking out the window. This is a powerful scientific method as well. Encourage them to notice texture, shape, and details. Have them label what it is and the date and any other things they may want to remember.



WATER LETTERS

Use a paintbrush or Q-tip dipped in water and have the child write on construction paper.



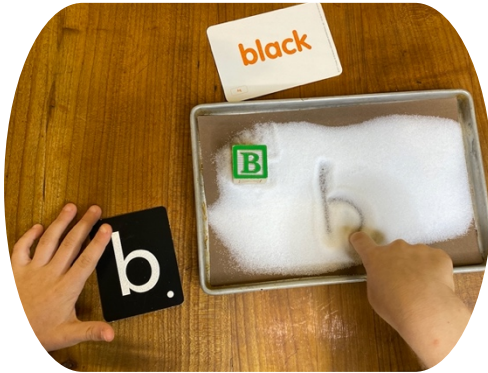
BUTCHER PAPER

Tape butcher paper to a table – the coffee or kitchen table works great – they can write/draw while waiting for their meal (remember, coloring is writing too).



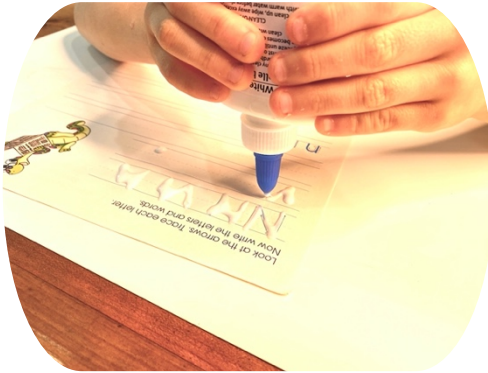
DRY ERASE + LEARNING LAMINATE

Use laminated learning placemats, or make your own, and keep some dry erase markers on the table. Challenge kids who are snacking or waiting on a meal to a written task on the placemats.



SALT TRAY

Make your own by using a dark dish or tray or cookie sheet (You can always cut out construction paper and double side tape to your plate/tray/sheet). You want a contrast against the white salt. Place a letter or word you want them to write and ask them to copy with their finger.



GLUE WRITING

Such a fun assignment. Have child trace and print letters onto their worksheet or something you've written on construction paper in glue. This works their fine motor skills and their writing skills in a fun way. If you really want to rock their world – shake some glitter on it if they do a really good job!



WORD LADDER

Draw a ladder and practice word families. Give them a prompt like "all words that end in -at." Ask them to see how many more words they can make, one per each rung. Ask them "can you climb the tower to rescue the princess or climb the ladder to the top of Jack's beanstalk?" For older kids, ask them to write words that rhyme with a word you assign and see how high they can go.



Q-TIP ERASE

Erase words with a Q-tip! Write an assignment on a whiteboard. Ask your child to trace the words with a Q-tip and erase completely!