

Playtime

Say, sing or listen to nursery rhymes, action songs and finger rhymes together. They will start to understand that words arranged in certain ways produce certain sounds and patterns. They will hear different rhymes and rhythms. It will also help them start to hear the words within a sentence and different sounds within individual words.

Play word games like 'I Spy' or 'Treasure Hunt': ask them to find objects around the house that start with the same sound or letter.

Play at threading wooden beads or building towers of Lego. By seeing the beads or blocks arranged in various colour combinations, they will start to see how different patterns can be made. This prepares them for the idea that individual letters arranged in a different order make different patterns too - they make different words!

Encouraging them to develop their imagination will help your children with the quality of their writing. You can do this by giving them old clothes or material for dressing up. Get them to tell you who they are and what they are doing. Are they a policeman, a ballet dancer or an astronaut?

Make up stories with them about their teddy. Encourage them to tell you what should happen next in the story. What did Teddy do or say then? in the story. What did Teddy do or say then?

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