

Reaching the Reluctant Writer

by Yvonne Swinson

Three main types:

1 - Kids who love writing (those moms are in the other classes)

2- Kids who like writing if they can choose the topic or type of writing (easier to help)

3 - Kids who struggle to write anything

Consider the following first:

Does my child have special needs or a learning disability?

Does my child struggle to express thought verbally or just in writing?

Does my child struggle across all subjects or just with writing?

What is "age appropriate"? Is my child just a "late bloomer"?

Encouraging creativity:

Writing often begins with narration. Have your child verbally "write" first.

Games/Activities: Each person adds a sentence to a story. Draw a character, a setting, and an event out of jars or envelopes and fill in the story. Puppet shows. Plays. LISTEN to stories told by talented storytellers. "Regurgitate" a favorite story, changing certain characters or events.

Play add-words with an easy topic: your favorite dessert.

1 word: Chocolate.

5 words: Chocolate brownie with ice cream.

20 words: Hot chocolate brownie with pecans and chocolate chips, topped with hot fudge and a scoop of Breyers vanilla ice cream.

100 words: I love grandma's homemade brownie recipe. She makes it from scratch and puts in chopped pecans and lots of miniature chocolate chips. She cuts them really large, then puts a big scoop of Breyers French vanilla ice cream on top. The brownie is still so hot the ice cream immediately begins to melt. Then, we pour hot fudge on top....

Encouraging fact-based writing:

Write on what interests you. (*33 Habits of a Really Good Man*)

Note taking Fact Finding

Debate Persuasion

Brainstorm Topics You Know

Branching Out Reading fact-based writing

Cluster Writing Retelling

Research Inspiration