

Inspiring Your Creative Kid

in The Literary Arts

Consider this....

Consider this... Creative writing or 'playing with words' to express ideas and thoughts may take on many forms like riddles, jokes, poems, songs, stories, scripts, letters, or journaling.

Encourage your child's curiosity and exploration by:

- Talking through ideas before sitting down to write them.
- Asking open-ended questions.
- Telling a story together.
- Creating 'story starters' like "One day my dog said..."

Often kids can be inspired to write simply by introducing new tools – a new set of pens, special paper, an old typewriter, or the computer. Consider introducing your child to alternative methods of writing. Calligraphy, stamp sets, secret codes, invisible ink (lemon juice), or mirror writing (like DaVinci!) are just a few ideas.

Children respond well to positive feedback. To show your appreciation and celebrate their work:

- Pin it up on a bulletin board
- Display it on the fridge
- Type it for them (maybe in a special or fun font)
- Laminate it
- Start a writing folder or binder
- Scrap-book
- Photocopy it and send to family or friends

Encourage your children's interest in literature by getting them their very own library card and visiting the library often. (p.s. It's free for children under 12 years!)

Did you know?

Over 550 City of Calgary buses and vehicles (that's more than half of all the public buses in Calgary!) celebrate local poets by displaying posters as part of the Poetry in Motion series. This brings art and poetry to commuters and transit riders on a daily basis.

"For 6 years now, Poetry in Motion has been sending the simple and powerful message that the enjoyment of the arts can easily be an integral part of everyone's daily life."

Melanie Rutledge,
Head, Writing and Publishing Section,
Canada Council for the Arts
www.poetryinmotioncalgary.com/ (August 22, 2006)



prose 'prOz

noun

1 : the ordinary language that people use when they speak or write

2 : writing that does not have the repeating rhythm used in poetry

<http://www.wordcentral.com/> (August 22, 2006)

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.

- Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977)

Just for fun...

Choose your own adventure as you read a story about strange creatures from the Weird Marsh in the 'simile adventure story' by Rich Roach.

www.lttta.ca/braingames/urban_legends/index.html

Tales and stories, the Magical Imagination Machine, What Ifs and more at

www.fairygodmother.com

Draw a crazy picture Write a nutty poem Sing a mumble-gumble song Whistle through your comb Do a loony-goony dance 'Cross the kitchen floor Put something silly in the world That ain't been there before.

- Shel Silverstien

Why literature?

The ability to communicate through the written word is an essential skill. By introducing children to literature at an early age you can help them to build a life-long love of reading. Reading to your children (even after they know how to read!) provides many benefits:

- Stimulates language and speech development
- Builds a strong vocabulary
- Improves understanding of sentence structure and phrasing
- Helps them understand the world around them
- Increases attention span
- Improves listening skills
- Lowers stress
- Encourages curiosity
- Stimulates imagination

We are cups, constantly and quietly being filled. The trick is, knowing how to tip ourselves over and let the beautiful stuff out.

-Ray Bradbury



One of the greatest gifts adults can give - to their offspring and to their society - is to read to children.

- Carl Sagan