

**High-Performance Writing**  
Beginning Expository Writing

**School-Home Link**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

During the next few weeks, your child will be working on Expository Writing at the Beginning Level. Your child will learn to write to inform and explain by writing summaries and compositions that compare and contrast. Being able to write expository compositions is an important skill your child will use often in school and personal life. Besides learning to write expository compositions, your child will learn important language arts skills, including rules for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization. Your child will also learn to organize ideas in order to be a better writer.

Here are some things you can do with your child at home:

1. Help your child practice summarizing ideas by reading a story aloud to your child. Then ask your child to tell you the most important facts from the story. If the story involved a series of events, can your child repeat them in the correct order?
2. Your child will write some expository compositions at school and bring them home. Ask your child to read them to you. Praise your child's writing. Post it on the refrigerator. Share it with other family members. Talk about other expository compositions your child might write.
3. Your child is learning to put words in alphabetical order. Play a game by giving your child two words that begin with different letters (*man, boy*). Ask which word comes first in alphabetical order. After your child can do this quickly and easily, make the game harder. Give your child two words that begin with the same letter but have different second letters (*boat, bike*).
4. Visit the library to select books for sharing. Ask your librarian to suggest books your child might like based on his or her interests and reading ability. Read these books with your child. Ask your child to summarize a book, either orally or in writing. Did your child include all the important parts without telling too many details? Did your child summarize the story in the correct order?
5. Play a Same and Different game to help your child practice comparing and contrasting. Give your child two words that name things that are alike in some ways and different in some ways (*day and night, bird and airplane, vegetables and fruit*). Ask your child to tell ways the things are alike and ways they're different.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about the writing we're doing at school, please feel free to call me or meet with me.

Your child's teacher,

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