

Supporting Writing at Home



Langafel's Guide to Writing using VCOP:

- Vocabulary
- Connectives
- Openers

- Punctuation

Encourage your child to improve the sentences that they write, using VCOP. For example:

The cat went along the wall.

We can improve this sentence using:

Vocabulary:	The <i>fluffy ginger</i> cat <i>prowled</i> along the <i>red brick</i> wall.
Connectives:	The fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall <i>because he was spying on a juicy bird.</i>
Openers:	<i>Whilst licking his lips,</i> the fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a juicy bird.
Punctuation:	Whilst licking his lips, the fluffy ginger cat (who had sharp teeth) prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a bird!

Helping your child with VCOP at home.

Vocabulary (Wow words!)

- Talk about and write down interesting (Wow) words in the stories you are reading at home.
- Try using the words you have found in a sentence.
- Have a mini-quiz: 'How many words can you think of instead of 'said'?' or 'went', 'nice', 'good'. Put each one in a sentence.
- Give your child a Wow word to put into a sentence. How many different sentences can they make?
- Give your child two different words and ask them to make different sentences from them. E.g.: 'magical' and 'boy'.

Connectives

Connectives are used to join sentences together. The simplest connective to use is 'and', as in:

Bill went to the shops **and** he bought an ice-cream.

- Try to search for connectives in the stories you read at home. Use them in a different sentence.
- Try rearranging sentences with the connectives at the start. e.g.
The little boy shivered **despite** it being warm in the cave.
Despite it being warm in the cave the little boy shivered.
- Give your child a connective and ask them to use it in a sentence.

Openers

An opener is the first word used in a sentence. When children start on their writing journey most sentences initially begin with 'I'. To develop this try:

- Searching for openers in the stories you read at home and use them to start your own sentences.
- Give your child an opener and ask them to complete the sentence.

Punctuation

- Look at different types of punctuation in your reading at home.
- Ask your child to give examples of when they would use a ? or ! or . or , - use the punctuation pyramid.
- Use different types of punctuation in different sentences.

Different ways to start a sentence:

Ways to Start

"When" starter

"How" starter

"Where" starter

Name starter

Simile

Adjective starter

"-ed" clause

"-ing" clause

Example

Last night....

Carefully, he crept

Across the road....

Bill wandered

Like an eel

Tall trees towered overhead

Excited, Joanna ran

Running quickly, Tim felt

Time Connectives

Before	After	Later	After a while
Soon	Then	Afterwards	At dawn
Once	Suddenly	Eventually	Until
Before	Finally	Following	Firstly
When	Lastly	In the end	Soon
Later	After tea	Next	Now
Meanwhile	While	Tomorrow	One day
Previously	Since	At that moment	

At the beginning

Alternatives to went:

Moving slowly:

shuffled toddled crept

meandered plodded trudged wandered

Moving unsteadily:

lumbered shuffled toddled doddered lurched

waddled plodded limped wobbled

Moving loudly or quickly:

stomped marched strolled traipsed

strutted hiked roamed paced

stepped pounded

Moving quietly:

meandered prowled sneaked tiptoed

crept pattered

***Thank you for helping us to
support your child's progress in
writing!***