

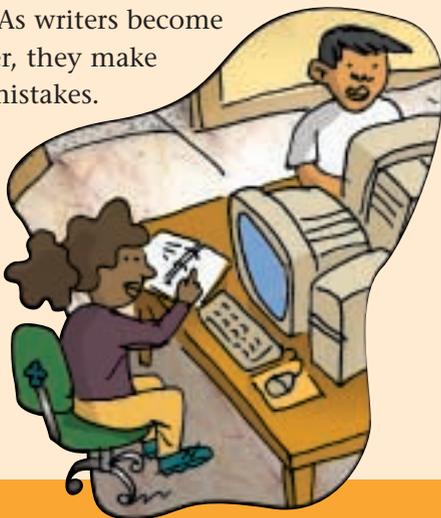
## 4. Editing

- ✓ working on sentence structure, paragraph development, and word use
- ✓ correcting errors in grammar

### Tips

- Ask your child to read the piece aloud.
- Look at sentence structure, wording, and paragraphing.
- Concentrate on only one type of error at a time.
- Encourage the use of a dictionary and thesaurus.
- Let your child make the final editing decisions.
- You may also find and correct errors in grammar.

**Please note:** Editing is an ongoing process and most children will need some assistance during this process. Correctness is important, but correcting every error can be overwhelming to the writer. As writers become stronger, they make fewer mistakes.



## 5. Proofreading

- ✓ working on errors in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

### Tips

- Do a final check on capitalization, spelling, grammar, and punctuation (see pages 82–128).
- Concentrate on only one kind of error at a time.
- Encourage the use of a spell checker.

## 6. Publishing

- ✓ sharing the writing with an audience

### Tips

- Provide opportunities for your child to share his or her work; for example, he or she could mail a letter to a family member, post notes on the refrigerator, or make a booklet.
- Allow your child to decide when and how to share pieces with others.
- Provide materials such as stamps, envelopes, and papers for book covers.
- Share your own writing with your child.

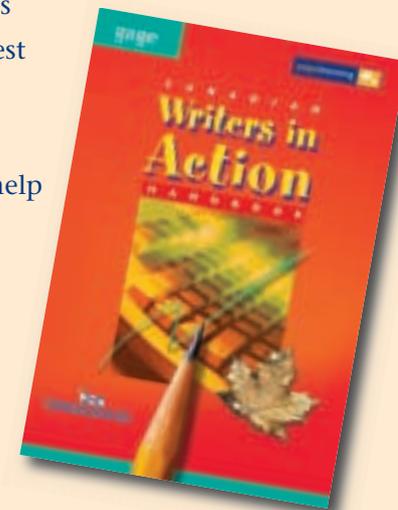
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# Writers in Action

## A Guide for Parents

The ability to write effectively is an important skill for success in today's world. Your support can help your child become an effective writer.

Although your child does most of his or her writing in the classroom, many kinds of writing can be done at home. You can help keep this natural interest alive. This pamphlet is designed to help you support your child's development as a writer.



# Helping Your Child through the Stages of Writing

There are several stages to creating a good piece of writing. Your child may need feedback at some or all stages of his or her projects. *Writers in Action* will help you as you work together by providing strategies, information, and writing tips to help with each stage.

With your child, look through *Writers in Action* to become familiar with its contents. You might wish to talk about ways to use the Table of Contents (pages 3–6), and the Index (pages 143–144) to find information. Browse through the other sections of the Handbook together.

## The Writing Process



Here are some tips for helping your child with writing projects.

### 1. Getting Started

- ✓ generating ideas
- ✓ considering the purpose and audience

#### Tips

- Share experiences such as outdoor activities, trips, or family vacations.
- Help your child find a real purpose for writing and real audiences to write for. (See page 10.)
- Help your child take notes or brainstorm ideas.
- Be an active listener—ask questions and encourage your child to talk about his or her ideas.

### 2. Drafting

- ✓ producing the first draft on paper

#### Tips

- Provide a suitable place to write and the needed tools (for example, *Writers in Action*, dictionary, thesaurus, paper, and pencils).
- Ask and answer questions that focus on the content of the writing.
- Respect your child's ability to make good choices.
- Resist the temptation to take over.

### 3. Revising

- ✓ considering what to add, remove, or change

#### Tips

- Ask your child to read the piece aloud.
- Comment on what you liked, for example, an interesting sentence or a vivid description.
- Ask questions about the purpose, meaning, and organization of the writing.
- Discuss possible changes and the reasons for them.
- Give your child, as the writer, the final say in the changes.

