



CURRICULUM CORNER

The Write Time

By: Liza Pringle

Wonders Early Learning Curriculum and Instructions Specialist

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and it's the perfect time for children to send their love to someone important in their lives. It feels great to receive a special note in the mail to help your child put their feelings down on paper to brighten someone else's day and to help them learn the power of print.

Dictation is a simple, yet powerful, way to teach children the letters and their sounds, along with the conventions of writing. It doesn't have to be anything fancy -- just a folded piece of paper will work. You can actually mail it or just hand it to a pal or a pet. Children love seeing that their thoughts and feelings are important enough to be recorded and shared. Depending on their age and interest, you can extend the learning by adding silly-looking punctuation marks or by using extra tall uppercase letters at the start of your sentences. You might help your child better understand that words are discrete units by asking them to count how many words are in their special message. These mini-teachable moments plant the seeds for future literacy learning.

Here is a recent [article](#) on the research behind the why and the how for helping children "turn the words they can say into words they can see."