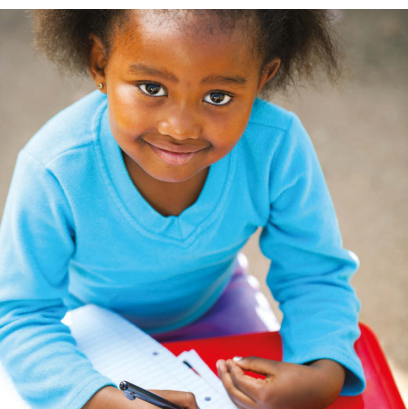




# fantastic ideas for early writing prompts

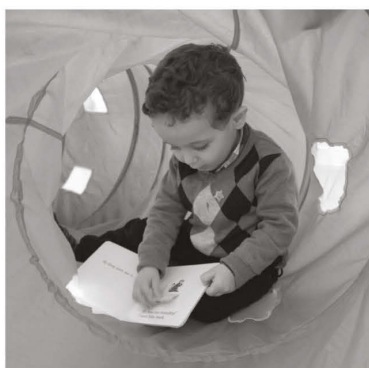
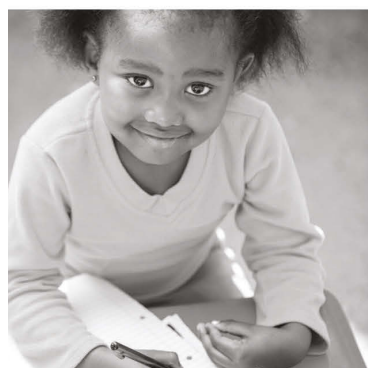


ALISTAIR BRYCE-CLEGG





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# Introduction



The minute children have grasped the fact that they can link sounds to these squiggly shapes called letters, things get really exciting for the emergent writer. No longer just a mark maker, they are now able to record symbols in a way that makes sense to them and that others can also decode and interpret.

This can be a very motivational stage for children's development, but it can on occasion cause children to stagnate and avoid writing. One of the many issues that they encounter is that there are lots of rules and exceptions when it comes to phonics that can take a little while (and a lot of effort) to master. The biggest inhibitors to children's success in writing are a

lack of self-belief and motivation. Children who struggle with some of the early stages of the writing process very quickly come to regard themselves as 'bad' writers, and this is often not helped by the sorts of activities that we give children to promote effective writing. Children need to be highly motivated to write about things that they are interested in and enjoy.

In this book of **50 Fantastic Ideas for Early Writing Prompts** I have listed activities that I know have worked by firing children's interest and maintaining high levels of engagement. The activities are primarily aimed at children who are already on their writing journey, but they can easily be adapted either for your more emergent or else your more accomplished writers.







### Food allergy alert



When using food stuffs to enhance the children's play opportunities, always be mindful of potential food allergies. Look out for this symbol on the relevant pages.

### Skin allergy alert



Some detergents and soaps can cause skin reactions. Always be aware of potential skin allergies when letting the children mix anything with their hands, and always provide hand-washing facilities for the children to wash materials off after they have been in contact with skin. Watch out for this symbol on the relevant pages.

### Safety issues

Social development can only take place when children are given opportunities to experiment and take reasonable risks in a safe environment. Encouraging independence and the use of natural resources inevitably raises some health and safety issues; these are identified where appropriate.

Children need help and good models for washing their hands when using natural materials or preparing food. They may need reminding not to put things in their mouths, and to be careful with real-life or found resources.

**SAFETY FIRST!**

