

Pulling it All Together: Promoting Writing

Writing is one of the best ways to pull together literacy knowledge including vocabulary, letter recognition, letter-sound connections, genre awareness and concepts about print. Unfortunately, many of us forget to talk about writing with children! In fact, with so much online writing, many kids don't see much actual text being produced. It's important to model writing in front of children so that they can see how writing is used and how it's produced. Since we often already do a lot of writing, showing this to kids can be pretty easy. We just need to make children aware of the writing. We also need to give kids materials, time and encouragement to do their own writing. Here are some ways to do that:

- **Create a “writing center”** in your home. Have a space with paper and interesting writing materials like markers or colored pencils so your child can write anytime. If space is tight, you can have a “writing suitcase” that you just pull out from time to time. Be sure to refresh it before you use it each time.
- **Write stories together.** Have your child create a picture. On the back or another piece of paper, write down what your child tells you about that picture.
- **Write WITH your children.** When you have to write something, a birthday card to a friend, a list for the grocery store, a note to your child's care provider, show it to your child and ask for ideas on what to say.
- **Read aloud.** Talk about the author of the books you read and comment on what you like (or don't like) about the writing. Ask your child what he or she thinks about the writing. How might your child have written it differently?

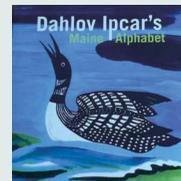
Your child might also enjoy...



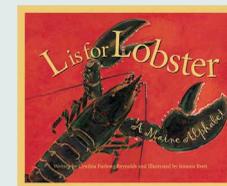
Wilfred
by Ryan Higgins



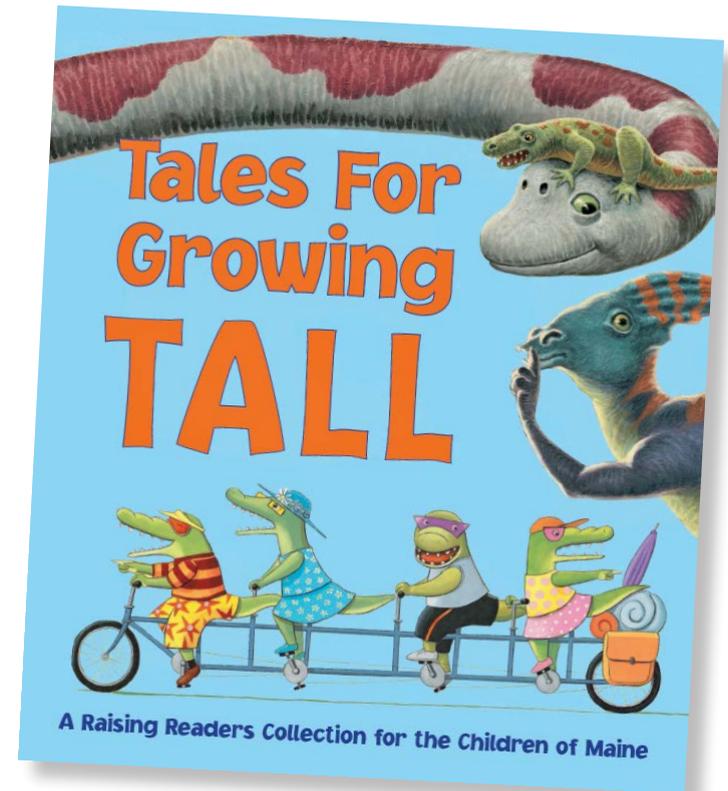
At One in a Place Called Maine
by Lynn Plourde



Dahlov Ipcar's Maine Alphabet



L is for Lobster
by Cynthia Reynolds



Raising Readers' 5-year selection for 2014

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