

RISE Arkansas

An informational newsletter exploring the Science of Reading in Arkansas

Write! Right now!

September 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

Greetings! It is so hard to believe that summer is almost over and fall is upon us. School is in full swing and we hope your back-to-school experience was amazing!

Today is World Letter Writing Day and what better way to celebrate than to write you a letter! With your student, take time today to jot a note to a friend, loved one, or neighbor.

This month, we will begin a series of newsletters that focuses on the complex task of writing. When your student writes they are balancing many things, such as:

- What's the purpose of their writing?
- Who is their audience?
- What ideas do they want to convey?
- How will they organize their ideas?
- Remembering the mechanics of writing such as sentence structure, word choice, and spelling.
- How to properly edit and revise their work.

Writing can be an overwhelming task! However, there are lots of ways you can help! When you reinforce what your student is learning at school, model these skills at home, and provide positive feedback and encouragement, your students will become excellent writers in no time!

We are happy that you joined us this month and we hope you join us again next month as we continue learning about writing!

Sincerely,
Your friends at the RISE Newsletter

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**You are your
child's first and
most important
teacher!**



Punctuation Matters? Yes!

September 1st is World Letter Writing Day and September 23rd is National Punctuation Day. This seems like a great time to talk about punctuation, an important mechanic of writing.

What are writing mechanics?

Agreed-upon rules of writing used to make writing clear and comprehensible.

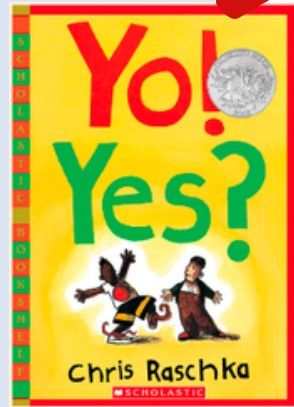
What punctuation marks should parents expect their students to include in their writing in each grade?

Below are the end-of-the-year expectations to work towards in each grade. Encourage your students to use correct punctuation in all their writing.



CHECK IT OUT!

Kids are never too young to learn about punctuation marks and this book would make a great introduction!



Punctuation in the K-5 ELA Standards

	Use all end punctuation marks.
	Use all end punctuation marks. Use commas in dates.
	Use all end punctuation marks. Use commas in words and items in a series. Use commas in greetings. Use commas in the closing of letters. Use commas before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
	Use commas in items in a series. Use commas in addresses. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
	Use end marks in dialogue. Use commas in dialogue. Use commas in quotations from a text. Use commas to separate an introductory element. Use quotation marks in dialogue. Use quotation marks in quotations from a text.
	Use end marks in dialogue. Use end marks in quotations. Use commas in dialogue. Use commas in quotations from a text. Use commas to separate an introductory element. Use commas with words yes and no. Use quotation marks in dialogue. Use quotation marks in quotations from a text.

Encourage your student to include these expectations in all their writing assignments!

Pre-writing in preschool

The Arkansas CDELS (Child Development and Early Learning Standards), is a set of shared expectations for what children typically know, understand, and are able to do at different ages of early childhood. Below are a few emergent writing skills to consider if you have preschoolers at home.



Arkansas Child Development and Early Learning Standards: Birth through 60 Months

Shared expectations for what children typically know, understand, and are able to do at different ages of early childhood

From 9-36 months, children should:

- Explore writing tools and movements, making scribble marks with increasing control.

How can parents help? Let children write with different-sized writing tools every day. Let them scribble, draw copy, trace, and have fun with a variety of writing materials!

From 19-60 months, children should:

- Show increasing understanding that writing carries a message and uses scribbles, letter-like shapes, or letters to represent words or ideas

How can parents help? When your child draws a picture, ask them to tell you about their picture and write what they say.

Write your name!

Not sure what your little one should be writing? Have them practice writing their name!

It is, of course, their favorite word! Provide lots of different materials and different kinds of writing tools to keep engagement and excitement high!

One important thing to remember from the very beginning is to encourage your child to capitalize **only** the first letter in their name. Most children learn to write capital letters first because they are easier to write. However, when children begin writing their names in all capital letters, it is a very hard habit to break. Place lots of correct examples all around for them to use as models to encourage correct name-writing practice from the very beginning!



Copy Cat



Did you know that children as young as 2-years-old begin to imitate the act of writing by creating drawings and symbolic markings that represent their thoughts and ideas? Promote daily writing practice in fun ways! A little bit of shaving cream can be a novel way to practice writing. Give your preschooler a dollop on a tray. Have them spread it out with their fingers, and write until their heart is content!



BATH TIME FUN!



Writing letters and numbers is always more fun in the bathtub! Pick up a pack of tub crayons and let your little one practice their pre-writing skills and strengthen their fine motor skills. Fun and learning go hand in hand!





SEPTEMBER RISE READING CALENDAR



September is the only month with nine letters in its name and holds the distinction of being the month with the longest name.

Sunday



"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

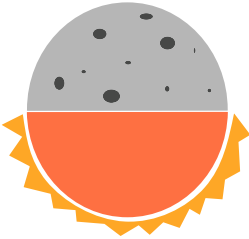
HAPPY GRAND PARENTS DAY

Do You Know the Preamble?



The morpheme **pre-** means before. Brainstorm a list of words that starts with **pre-**.

Monday



Labor Day

GRANDMA'S PURSE
Vanessa Brantley-Newton



SHIVER ME LETTERS
A PIRATE ABC



Start the celebration by memorizing the Preamble to the Constitution!

Tuesday

Did you know that September 23 is the autumnal equinox? The sun shines directly on the equator, and the northern and southern hemispheres get the same amount of rays! Hello, Autumn!

It is National Read a Book Day! That is something worth celebrating! Ready... set... read!

Read this fun book and celebrate the grandma in your life!

Hey Matey! It is International Talk Like a Pirate Day! Read this book or like a pirate or walk the plank!



Draw the American Flag using these directions.

Wednesday



Read this step-by-step description of what happens to mail from the time it is deposited in the mailbox to its arrival at its destination.

Tomorrow is National Play-Doh Day. Celebrate by making letters and words with this fun modeling clay!

Do you remember the 21st night of September?



How many syllables are in these words? Clap and count!



Constitution
Freedom Government
Tranquility
Declaration Independence Amendments Washington

Thursday

Today is World Letter Writing Day! No emails today! Write a letter to someone special!



Today is the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. Read more about it in last year's RISE newsletter.



Punctuation marks are like road signs; without them, we just may get lost...
— Nanette L. Avery

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Friday



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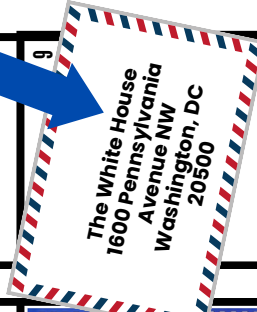
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How many syllables are in these words?

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Saturday

Write another letter today to the President and tell him how you will be celebrating freedom!



CONSTITUTION DAY

It is National Punctuation Day! Look at this calendar and see how many punctuation marks you can spot!

Thirty days has September...

GOODBYE September

Arkansas public schools observe Celebrate Freedom Week during the last full week of classes in September. This law was created to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom and the values on which this country was founded.