



Journal Writing

We thought we would give parents some tips about having their child write in a journal or journal entry. At school, we usually give one question, topic of interest, or story starter. We usually base this on something we are learning or something they are really interested in.

Journal entries are great ways to practice letter recognition, sounds, forming letters, drawing, answering open ended questions, and practicing new skills (even with the frustration that can come with it!)

-We also try to think of questions that might not require a long answer and that they can draw something related.

-We encourage some children to sound out the words they want to write, but that depends on the developmental level your child is at.

-We will often write the words, phrases, or sentences your child wants to write on a separate piece of paper or dry erase board for them to copy.

-We use upper case letters but lower case is great if you want to experiment or challenge your child and you think they are ready for it

-We encourage the children to use pencils or colored pencils to practice grip and ease of writing - Your child will most likely remember the classroom journal rules!

-We encourage the children to write the date on their entries (get some math and calendar skills in as well!)

Here are some prompts:

What do you like best about your brother, sister?

What is your favorite game to play and why?

What is your favorite activity to do at school and why?

What is different about Spring and Winter?

Would you rather have a penguin or a giraffe for a pet and why?

Finally, remember to be patient and take breaks if your child is struggling. Sometimes deep breaths work for those children who don't love to write. We have noticed the Orange Room children really love dry erase boards for easy erasing when things get tough. Chalk boards work too. Feel free to reach out to us with questions!