



**Building Writing Skills:  
Start a Lifetime Habit of Writing  
Thank-You Notes** ✍️

The end of the school year is a great time to thank teachers for all they have done.

Have your child write thank-you notes. This can develop writing skills, boost a child's self-esteem, and build character.

To nurture your child's desire to write thank-you's, don't make it a chore. Inspire him.



When you give or receive special thanks, share how you feel with your child. Say why you're thanking someone. Explain what another person's kind words mean to you.

Make time for a quiet talk with your child. Discuss the ways his teacher helped him during the school year. Ask him to tell you some of the specific things that he remembers. Then help him write a thank-you note that mentions some of those special things. If your child is just learning to write, have him dictate his note to you.

Your child can also write notes to:

- Cheer someone up.
- Give a compliment.
- Encourage someone.
- Tell someone he misses them.

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**This Month's Family Activity**

**Writing Ideas To Boost Learning**

During Spring Break, kids can still keep up their writing skills. Here are some ways to encourage your kids to write during their break or even continue during the summer months.

- Send post cards. Everyone loves to receive mail, and post cards are an inexpensive way to stay in touch. Encourage your kids to write post cards to friends and relatives.
- Keep a diary. Every day, have your kids write down something they did that day. When returning to school, the diary will make their "What I Did on Spring Break or Last Summer" essay easier and more interesting.
- Have your kids write about special break activities. Ask them to describe eating popcorn at the movies or during summer... describe what it feels like to jump into a pool or a lake.
- Start a newsletter for your family or neighborhood. Gather news and photos by phone or email. Write up stories, assemble the newsletter, and make copies.
- Encourage your kids to make their own books. "Publish" the books by creating covers and stapling them together. These are wonderful gifts for grandparents.
- Keep a travel journal. Even if you never leave your hometown, you can plan interesting things to do during their break. As you visit nearby parks or museums, have your children keep a journal of where you go and what you see. 😊

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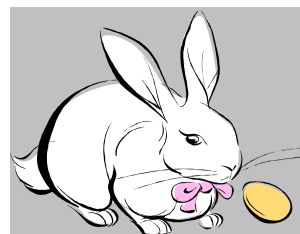
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**Happy Spring Break  
and Happy Easter !!**

**Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success**

**Site Review**

**Resources available for Parents and Families:**

**The ABCs of the Writing Process**

<http://www.angelfire.com/wi/writingprocess/>

Are you looking for tips and suggestions for teaching the writing process? This site provides an overview of each stage of the process. Users will find sources of inspiration, tips, and links to printable graphic organizers and prewriting strategies in the Prewriting section. The Writing section includes tips for writing a rough draft and moving from the prewriting stage to writing. Methods and tips for revising, an editing checklist, publishing tips and suggestions, and annotated links to curricular resources are included. The site also sponsors a Writing Process Club, where users can participate in a forum or chat with others to share their writing experiences.