

When a parent is away...

Helping Children Write Letters

Why Write Letters?

- **Maintains relationship** between the parent and child.
- **A letter is a gift**, something your loved one can hold and look at when they are missing you.
- **To teach:**
 - Babies & preschoolers learn skills that get them ready to read.
 - Older children practice & strengthen their reading skills

When helping your child write a letter for their parent:

- Talk about what your child wants to tell his/her loved one. For non-talkers, tell your child what you imagine he/she might say.
- As you write for your child, say the words out loud.
- Allow your child to "draw a picture". Scribbles are great - children are developing their finger & hand muscles. For babies, talk with your child about what you'll draw for him/her.

When your child receives a letter:

For babies & children who do not read:

- Show your child his/her name on the letter. Point out that his/her name begins with the letter _____. When your child recognizes the first letter, begin pointing out other letters in his/her name.
- Point to the words as you read the letter.
- Talk with your child about the picture. For children who are not yet using words, describe their pictures.

Addressing the Envelope

From Child to Parent:

Caregiver's Name	
Street Address	
City, State, ZIP	
(Loved One's Name)	
Facility Name	
Facility Address	
City, State Zip	



Sentence Starters

Here are some ideas to help your child start their letter.

I am writing this letter to you because...

When I am grown up, I want to...

I remember when...

Here's my drawing of my __(happy; or another emotion)__ face.

When I see you next, I would like to _____.

Would you like to play I Spy? I Spy a _____. (Draw pictures & write 3 I Spy phrases. For example: I Spy a blue raindrop, I Spy a red flower, I Spy a yellow ball.)

When I get a letter from you, I feel _____.

One of my favorite foods is _____.

One thing I am thankful for is _____.

My favorite thing to do at school is _____.

Here's my joke for you.

My favorite book is _____.

I like to play _____.

A funny thing that happened to me is...

