

# What to do Writing

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –  
Please check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.*

Our focus today is writing.

## 1. Discuss fictional dinosaurs

Enjoy [If I had a dinosaur](#) by Gabby Dawney in this Cbeebies Bedtime Stories clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA1rpm15nj0> or share any picture book about a dinosaur encounter which you like. *How was this dinosaur not like a real one? Does it matter if our stories are based on imagination instead of facts? Is it fun to imagine dinosaurs as cuddly, confused, friendly or funny?*

## 2. Create a dinosaur story

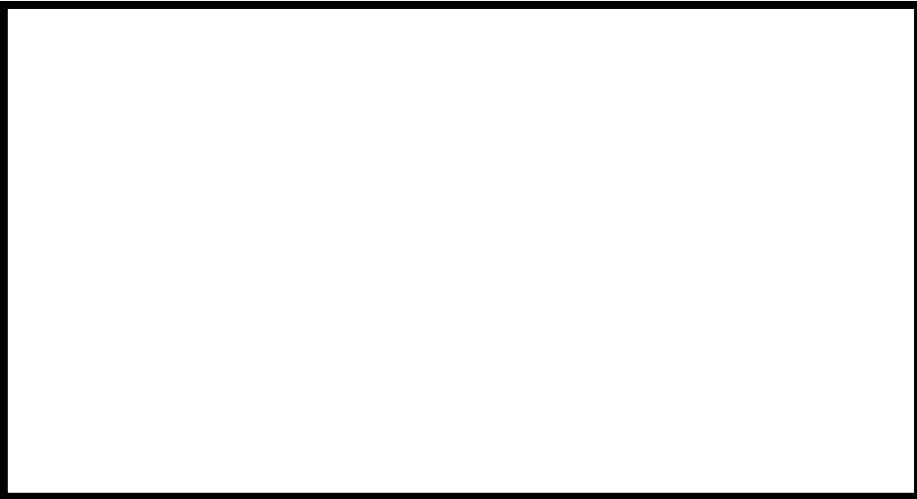
- Ask your child to imagine what might happen if they met a storybook dinosaur. *What might happen at the beginning? What would they do? What would happen in the end?*
- After lots of talk, write a simple three-part story together, e.g. *A dinosaur stomped into my garden. She was sad because her friends would not play. We played together, and she was happy.*
- Your child can write on [The Day I met a Dinosaur](#) (see below) or you could make a story book by folding paper. They may find lines helpful or may prefer to write on a blank page.

*NB. Getting young children to write is not easy! See [Guidance and handwriting groups](#) below.*

## Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Pretend to be dinosaurs visiting your home. What chaos will they cause?
- Make up some new dinosaur names, e.g. *a grumpyasaurus*.

# The Day I met a Dinosaur



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## Guidance for writing – some dos and don'ts

- **DO focus on letter formation.** See sheet below. It's really important that children get into the habit of writing letters correctly – this is not about how the finished letter looks, it's all about **how** they write it – what direction they move the pencil or pen. Bad habits are almost impossible to break – if they form letters wrongly, the finished letter may look good BUT in the long run, they are much less likely to be able to write fluently.
- **DON'T write a word or a line for them to copy.** If they can't remember how to write a letter, demonstrate, forming it correctly, so that they can imitate you.
- **DO give loads of praise.** Writing is so hard, and children get discouraged easily. It may be that they have just written one or two words, but if you praise them, it may be four words next time!
- **DON'T do 'dotty' letters for them to trace.** It is much better for children to form their own letters. We are teaching them to write not trace!
- **DO write for them sometimes.** It is important that young children can express their ideas in written form, and sometimes it is really good to write down what they say so that their ideas are expressed in writing on the page. Sometimes you can take turns to scribe. You write a bit, then they write a bit.

A decorative border of red ladybugs surrounds the page. The ladybugs are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with one row at the top, one row at the bottom, and vertical columns on the left and right sides.

## Handwriting Letter Groups

There are basically 4 groups of letters – in terms of how we move the pen to write these.

1. **Long Ladder Letters:** Start at the top and go down and then off in another direction, e.g. i, j, l, t, u
2. **Bouncing Ball Letters:** Start at the top, and go down and retrace upwards, e.g. b, h, k, m, n, p, r
3. **Curly Caterpillar Letters:** Start at the top and go anti-clockwise round, e.g. c, a, d, e, g, o, q, f, s
4. **Zigzag letters:** Zigzag from top then down, e.g. v, w, x, z

*Scroll on down ....*

# Letter Groups

## Group 1 – Long Ladder Letters

*Start at the top and come down the ladder and go off into another direction.*

i j l  
t u

## Group 2 – Bouncing Ball Letters

*Start at the top, go down and then re-trace upwards.*

b h k  
m n p r

## Group 3 – Curly Caterpillar Letters

*Start at the top and go anti-clockwise round.*

c a d e  
g o q f  
s

## Group 4 – Zigzag Letters

*Start at the top and zigzag down and up again.*

v w  
x z