



Motivating the reluctant writer

Important considerations:

Why is your child reluctant? Is it a lack of motivation? Have they had a negative experience with similar activities? Does their body just not support the activity eg: their hands are weak, so writing is difficult.

Ways to develop :

- Play **games that strengthen the hands**, away from writing/ mark making.
- Use their **special interests or favourite things/ characters** as a motivator.
- Make sure they know the activity will stop at a certain time and keep to this.

Activities to promote:

- **Spray bottles**
- **Small chalk**
- **Different pens**
- **Paint brush**
- **Felt tip**
- **Larger pens**

Other considerations/ways to support:

- Work in a comfortable position, possible lying on their tummy to take the activity away from writing.
- Get them to write a score/ list for something they are motivated to remember.
- Have a clear timer
- Could they draw rather than write
- Fill in gaps of almost completed words
- Create a story with your support and get them to clarify
- Helpful tips:
 - Always praise success.
 - Try to use verbal prompts (e.g. calling their name) or noise (tap on the table) to bring the child back to the activity if they become distracted.
 - If you have set a time limit for an activity, never go over this, even if the child is working well.
 - Have water bottles on the table.
 - Allow the child to use quiet fidget items while listening/completing written tasks.