

Before Children Write Well, They Need This First

A gentle way to help children organise their thoughts before writing.

8 Simple Story Prompts That Help Children Find Their Voice

From the team at Tricky Brains

Confidence in Sharing

Before children feel confident writing, they need to feel confident **sharing their ideas**.

For many children, hesitation around writing isn't about spelling, grammar, or vocabulary.

It's about **confidence**.

Writing asks children to organise thoughts, choose words, and express ideas all at once. That can feel overwhelming.

Storytelling is a gentler starting point.

When children talk through a story first, they practise organising ideas in a way that feels natural and playful.

You don't need to teach a lesson.

You just need to **listen and ask a few curious questions**.

The Story First Method

When your child tells a story, try this simple structure:

Listen first

Let them talk freely without correcting or interrupting.

Shape the story gently

Ask a few questions that help them organise their thoughts.

Celebrate their ideas

Focus on the story, not spelling or grammar.

That small shift helps children realise:

Their ideas are worth sharing.

8 Story Prompts to Try Tonight

These playful prompts help children practise storytelling without feeling like they're doing "writing practice."

If your pet could talk, what would it say about your day?

Children love imagining conversations. This prompt encourages creativity and humour.

Tell me about the most surprising thing that happened today.

This helps children reflect on real experiences and notice small moments.

Imagine your backpack had a secret life at night. What would it do?

This invites imaginative thinking and playful storytelling.

If today was a movie, what would the title be?

Children often enjoy framing their experiences as a story.

Tell me about a moment today that made you laugh.

Positive memories make storytelling easier and more relaxed.

If you could add one new rule at school tomorrow, what would it be?

This prompt invites opinion, reasoning, and storytelling.

Imagine your favourite toy went on an adventure. What happened?

This helps children practise beginning–middle–end storytelling.

What was the most interesting thing you learned today?

This connects storytelling with learning and reflection.

A Gentle Tip for Parents

Try asking these questions **at relaxed moments**:

- at the dinner table
- during the car ride home
- at bedtime
- during homework time

When children feel safe sharing ideas aloud, writing becomes easier later.

A Reminder Worth Keeping

Children don't become confident writers by fixing mistakes.

They become confident writers when they believe:

"My ideas matter."

And that belief begins with being heard.

From the team at Tricky Brains

Helping children build confident, curious minds.