High Impact Home Strategies

Strategy #3

Write with your Child:
Ask Questions

Help your child extend his/her writing by asking these elaboration/clarifying questions. For Pre-School to Kindergarten, try to spend most of your time talking and developing ideas and then writing together. For 1st grade to 5th grade, spend time listening, talking, and asking questions about his/her writing so that the piece is cohesive, concise, and clear.

Ask Questions

Before, during, and after writing with your child, take time to talk about the writing and how your child might elaborate and add details. Remember to validate your child’s thinking and interests, and to give your child ample time to think about as well as respond to your questions.

Before Writing:

Listen to your child tell his/her story. Ask questions that will add specific details. Rehearse the story and help your child connect the events in a cohesive way.

When did this happen? Who was there? Where did it happen? How did you feel when..? What happened at the end?

During Writing:

Have your child reread his/her writing. Stop and ask questions that will elaborate or clarify any incomplete ideas or events.

Can you tell me more about that? What did you say? What were you thinking? What are some other words you can use to describe...? What makes you think/say that? Then what happened?

After Writing:

Have your child read his/her piece. Celebrate your child’s effort and have your child read it to an audience!

I can really understand how you felt in that moment! What great things did you do as a writer? What will you write about next?

Use Open-Ended Questions:

Close-ended Questions are those which can be answered by a single word or simple “yes” or “no,” while Open-Ended Questions require more thought and more elaboration. Open questions require children to think and talk more, and talking helps us learn! It is so important during this time to listen to what our students have to say because they have wonderful ideas!