

Parents,

Here are some pointers that might help with the writing activity listed for each day.

**First, read the prompt.** Today's prompt is about finding a magic wand. Talk for a few minutes about what you would do with a magic wand. (My magic wand would do all the laundry every day and walk my dogs for me when I am at school). Talk about magic in general, such as magic tricks, movies with magic, etc. Have your second grader verbalize or make a list of the three things they would do with a magic wand.

**Next, help your child write a topic sentence.** "I know what I would do with a magic wand" is a great example. I tell the kids not to give any reasons in the topic sentence. Once they have a topic sentence, they can begin writing their supporting sentences. Tell your child to use each of their three ideas to write a sentence. Some of your kids will naturally add more detailed sentences, and others will not. That's okay because we always go back and make our first draft better.

Once your child has a topic sentence and 3-5 detail sentences, **help them write a closing sentence.** Closing sentences do not introduce any new ideas. It is really a reiteration of the topic sentence. "I would really have fun with a magic wand" is an example.

**Now, have them read their writing out loud to you.**

The first draft is now finished. It is up to you, but I know there is plenty of time to have your child revise and edit the first draft. **Here are the steps we take for revising:**

1. Ask questions and add the answers as details in the writing
  - a. Where did you find the wand?
  - b. Who was there with you?
  - c. How would this make you feel?
2. Find a place to add a sound word like "boom" "zip" "buzz" etc.
3. Try to add a few describing words. Describe what the wand looks like.

**Here are the steps we take for editing:**

1. Use a colored pen or pencil to circle any words that are misspelled.
  - a. Tap them out or use a dictionary to look the word up
  - b. Write the word a couple of different ways to see which one looks correct, then double check in the dictionary.
2. Look for words or phrases that are repeated. If every sentence begins with "I" change the way you start a few sentences.
3. Sentences should not start with because, so, or but. Cross those words out.
4. Look for capital letters and punctuation.

**Now, read the revised version.** Is there anything else you need to add? It is not necessary for the kids to make a final copy. Let them read it aloud with all of the corrections.