

# Using board games to support writing

When children are learning number and letter formations, line placements and spacing concepts to support their writing skills, they need lots of opportunities for practise.

For many of the children who find it difficult to learn and get a handle of these skills, writing becomes a non-preferred activity. Meaning they would rather be doing anything else but practising writing.

There are lots of different ways to integrate writing into play and using board games is just one of them.

Children are more engaged when they are having fun and when the writing is meaningful to them.

There is a wide range of traditional board games available as well as many which can be downloaded from educational sites.

Have a look in your games cupboard and think of how you can include writing into the games you have.

Use different writing surfaces and tools to make it more or less formal, depending on your child's interest.

*Writing tools: pencils, felt pens, chalk, white board markers, crayons*

*Writing surfaces: blackboard, whiteboard, blank paper, plain lined paper, exercise book paper specific to your child's grade*

**Here are some games I like to use:**

## **Pop up Pirates (or similar)**

Write the colour of each sword when used

Write a sight word from a list every time a sword is inserted



## **Any game with a dice roll**

Write down the number of each roll (words or numerals)

Write down the colour of the square you land on



## **Snakes and Ladders**

Write every time you go "up a ladder" or "down a snake"

## **Monopoly**

Write out the property names as you acquire them

## **Scrabble or Up words**

Write down your words after you place them on the board

## **Cluedo**

Write down your guesses before presenting them to the other players

## **Guess who**

Write down your questions

You can make it simple or encourage more complex sentences

For example "red hair?" versus "Does your person have red hair?"



There are so many games and so many ways to use writing within them.

Have fun.