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Help your child realize that printed words are talk written down.

Ask your child to tell you about something important to her. It could be a place you went yesterday, a favorite TV show, today's weather, or a made-up story. As your child talks, print the words on a large piece of paper. When she finishes, read the words out loud. Explain, "This is what you said." Display the story on a wall or refrigerator and read it to your child several times during the day. The next day, or a few days later, replace it with a new story.

This activity will give your child the desire to write as well as to read.



Give your child paper and crayons or markers. Have him draw a picture and tell you what the picture is about. Print your child's words below the picture and read them aloud. When five or more stories are completed, staple them together in book form and print "My Picture Book" on the cover. Read the book with your child often. Make your child proud of his stories.

You said, "This is a picture of my best boat."

