

Resources for Caregivers: Juicy Writing Activities

Want to spice up your kiddo's writing life? Try these activities, games, and ideas:

Finish a Juicy Mad Lib

Mad Libs are one of my favorite word games because they are so silly. I created [an original Mad Lib you can do with friends](#), OR, [click here](#) to send me your words and I'll send back your story!

Swap Everyday Words for Juicy Words

This #JuicyWordChallenge will help inspire you and your young writer(s) to replace words we use all the time with more interesting, exciting choices. What if you banished the word GREAT from your vocabulary for a week and replaced it with something juicier? Consider "sponsoring" every juicy word your child uses for a week, then donate the funds to their favorite literacy charity, like First Book or 826!

Get Your Writing Juices Flowing with Some Juicy Story Starters

Looking for some inspiration? Look no further than [these story springboards](#) to get you started!

Fracture a Fairy Tale

Writing a fractured fairy tale is fun and low-pressure because the plot is already established, and you can let creativity run wild with whatever theme, setting, or type of character you choose. Give it a go with [this guide on my web site](#).

Turn on the Idea Faucet

Scholastic Teachers' "25 Ways to Get Kids Writing" has excellent ideas to get kids' words and ideas flowing, from online Mad Libs to 'What if?' prompts to cures for writer's block.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/25-ways-get-kids-writing/>

Keep a Writer's Notebook

These tips, courtesy of Mary Amato and Reading Rockets, help kids learn to observe and take notes to inspire scenes, stories, poems, and more.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/mary-amato-s-tips-keeping-writer-s-notebook>

Make Story Cubes

Story Cubes are a cross between a game and an endless combination of story ideas. Create a cube for characters, setting, objects, and plot, and you're off and running! Find details, ideas, templates and more at <https://www.imagineforest.com/blog/story-cubes-game/>

Make a book out of one piece of paper

Check out this [how-to video on my web site](#)!

Create a Heart Map as a Springboard for Writing

Draw a large heart on a blank piece of paper. Working from the center, fill it with things that are important to you: people, places, memories, objects, passions. Use your map when you need ideas of things to write about. Writing from the heart = juicy writing! For more details and a template created by educator, writer, and heart map originator Georgia Heard:

https://www.wsra.org/assets/Convention/Handouts_2013/a6%20georgia%20heard%20heart%20mapping.pdf

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Make and Print Kids' Own Stories and Books

Check out sites like Storyjumper.com or Storybird.com via this Scholastic article:

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/websites-where-kids-can-create-books.html>

Magazines and web sites that publish kids' work include:

- Stone Soup <https://stonesoup.com/>
- Storybird <https://storybird.com/>
- New Moon Girls (girls only) <https://newmoongirls.com/>

And a helpful article about submissions: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/publish-student-art-writing/>

Compiled by author *April Jones Prince*

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