

Creative Writing Activities at Home

A writing resource for parents and teachers during home schooling
2nd to 6th class students.

Creative writing is an important skill for all students.

We all love to communicate with our family members and our friends, near and far. However over the past year we have come to realise the importance of maintaining communication with so many people, and in a variety of different ways. Phone calls, Zoom calls, Skype, letter writing, messenger are all important ways of making connections with our family and our friends and are now almost the new normal.

Younger children still need to be able to connect and communicate in a variety of different ways too. It is important during the current Covid -19 pandemic that we ensure that our children can communicate with their friends as well as with members of their families when they are unable to see them for face to face regular daily or weekly visits.



There are a number of creative ways outlined in the below resource to support your child develop their creative writing skills and to communicate and keep in touch.

- Activity 1: Create and write a homemade card or letter to send in the post or by email
- Activity 2: Free writing
- Activity 3: Lists
- Other online resources to support learning at home for primary school students
- Appendix A: Templates for Spring Creative Writing

Activity 1: Create and write a homemade card or letter to send in the post or by email

Writing the card: Writing a card or letter is a way to practice creative writing and also connect with friends and family. You can use a printed template like this one below (See more examples Appendix A) or your child could draw and create their own template.

Your child might write about what's happening at home or a film/TV show/book they saw or read; they could write about 'Spring' and the changes in the weather and the environment. You can help them identify something to write about.



Who to connect with:

Family: Your child could send a Spring or Easter card or letter to their Grandparents, Aunt, Uncle, Cousin, perhaps their older brother or sister who might be living away from home,

Friends: Your child could send a spring or Easter card or letter to their school friend that they are missing right now.

School Staff: Your child could send a spring or Easter card or letter to their teacher or special needs assistant, using the school address, your principal will be able to pass it on to them.

Frontline workers: What about sending a card to the frontline workers in your nearby Hospital, Garda Station, Fire Station, Doctor, or the local shop or supermarket just to say Thank You.



Local nursing home: Sending a postcard to a person in a nearby Nursing Home, would be a lovely way just to say hello to someone who might feel lonely today, and who cannot have visitors. You might not know these people but just sending a postcard or letter or poster will brighten their day.

Your Mam or Dad will help you with what to say, and they will know what address to write for the Nursing Home.

Other resources around sending a letter in the post

Another interesting idea is to chart the journey of a letter from the writer to the recipient. *An Post* have an educational resource on their website <https://www.anpost.ie/anpost/schoolbag/primary/our+people/the+journey+of+your+mail/>

Activity 2: Free writing

Many students will be familiar with the concept of “free writing” and may have a special notebook or journal in which they write freely about any topic of choice, and in any genre. This is a simple idea that can be continued in the home setting.

Children have the freedom to decide what they want to write about and there are a variety of different styles that they can practice:

- Diary writing (**personal accounts**)
- Recount writing (**a report of an event**)
- Fiction (**short stories**)
- Instructional writing (**e.g. rules of a game** *the children can even come up with a new idea and create their own game!)
- Poetry (**Limericks, acrostic poems etc.**)

Activity 3: Lists

When parents are going out to do the shopping, your children can help by writing the lists of what is needed. This can be done on paper or using the notes app on a phone or i-pad.

Depending on the age of the child, elements of mathematics could be incorporated e.g. estimating prices and weights etc.

Children could also work out which option is better value, two for the price of one etc. You can use some of the supermarket flyers we get through the letterbox or in the newspapers to help. This will be a fun activity, if you compare shops etc.



Other online resources to support learning at home for primary school students

www.scoilnet.ie A very useful online forum with a variety of resources (emphasis on free tools). Resources are organized into theme pages and the website is easy to navigate.

www.twinkl.ie/offer Created by teachers, ideal for home education, it has lots of appealing games, stories, worksheets etc.

www.cula4.com A collection of resources as Gaeilge – cláir, físeáin, cluichí, srl.

www.askaboutireland.ie A treasure trove of resources with an Irish interest, focusing on our national culture

www.iamanartist.ie A visual arts initiative comprising 30 short TV programmes (each 6 minutes in length), an interactive website with slideshows, lessons, weblinks and interactive games, providing a stimulating collection of curriculum-mapped resources building on the visual arts curriculum in Ireland.

<https://rtejr.rte.ie/10at10/> Daily activities for children

<https://rteschoolhub> One stop shop for activity sheets and lesson plans and links to live classroom teaching each day

<https://www.cosmickids.com/> PE Activities

<https://www.counton.org/games/> Maths games

www.mrsbrown.art/homeschool Art ideas, suggestions and activities.

Appendix A: Templates for Spring Creative Writing





