12 writing prompts for kids

Choose a beginning. Tell, draw or write what happens next. Change anything you like.

1. The rainy picnic

A child has packed a picnic for the park. Just as the family is ready to leave, it starts pouring. How could they still have the picnic they've been looking forward to?

2. The den that won't stay up

Two friends are building a blanket den in the sitting room. Each time they crawl inside, the roof falls down. What could they change so there's room for them both?

3. The bear left behind

A child is packing for a night at their grandparent's house and can't find their favourite teddy. Where did they last play together? What clues could help them look?

4. The birthday card

A child is painting a birthday card for a friend. A big drop of paint lands in the middle of the picture. How could they make it part of the card?

5. A place in the game

A child wants to join a game in the playground but doesn't know anyone playing. What could they say? What might one of the other children do to help them join in?

6. The boat race

Two friends make toy boats for a race across the paddling pool. One boat keeps tipping over before it reaches the other side. What could its builder try differently?

7. The missing puppet

Two children have made a puppet show for their family. Just before it starts, they discover that the main puppet is still at school. Who could take its place, and how would the story change?

8. The treasure hunt

A child plans a garden treasure hunt for a younger cousin. The cousin gets stuck at the first written clue because they can't read yet. How could the child make clues they can follow?

9. The dragon at hide-and-seek

A young dragon joins a game of hide-and-seek in the woods. Wherever they hide, their long tail sticks out. How could the dragon find a hiding place that fits?

10. The bear's big drum

A bear is excited to play in the woodland band. At practice, the drum is so loud that nobody can hear the other instruments. How could the band make a song where everyone can be heard?

11. The mouse's delivery

A mouse bakes a birthday bun for a badger who lives across the meadow. The bun is too big to carry all that way. How could the mouse get it to the party?

12. The giant's garden

A giant wants to plant a flower garden beside the house. The seeds are so small that they keep slipping between the giant's fingers. Who could help, and what could the giant do in return?

Make your own prompt cards

A grown-up can cut out the cards. Pick a character, something they want and a problem that makes sense for them.

SOMEONE	THEY WANT TO...	BUT...
A child	Make a new friend	Something they need is missing
A small dragon	Take a present to a friend	Their first idea doesn't work
A mouse	Build somewhere cosy	The weather changes their plan
A giant	Put on a show	They can't do it alone

Who are they? What do they want? What will they try?

Our story plan

Tell it, draw it or write it. You can fill in a line together or leave it for another time.

Our character is

The story starts in

They want

But

So they try

By the end

A picture from our story