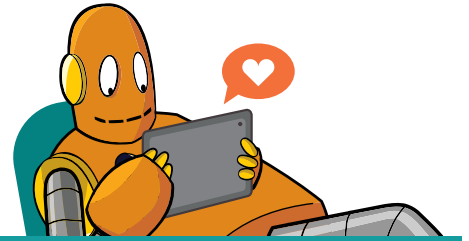


BrainPOP at Home



Do the **WRITE** thing this summer! Discover, play, and learn with your family.

Writing helps children become better readers and reading helps them become better writers! Luckily, writing is a natural and seamless part of our daily lives, from sending emails to journaling. Keep this important skill from slipping this summer by weaving writing into fun summertime activities.



BE A SCREENWRITER

What sparks your child's interests? Is she fascinated by black holes? Does he "dig" mummies? Brainstorm topics together. Then check BrainPOP's and BrainPOP Jr.'s extensive libraries for those topics. Watch a movie and use the Make-a-Movie tool, available on every topic page, to write and produce your own BrainPOP-style movie.

Want to produce your movie offline? No problem! Print out a [storyboard](#) or use the template in BrainPOP's Make-a-Map feature. In each panel, have your child draw the scene and write the dialogue. Encourage your child to watch the BrainPOP [Dialogue](#) movie to review this key writing skill. Then have your child and friends act out the movie while you film it!



SUMMER JOURNAL

Find a fun journal (or make your own). Challenge your child to write at least one entry every day of the summer—short or long doesn't matter. Encourage him/her to write about anything and everything, from describing a favorite ice cream flavor to telling about a firefly caught on a camping trip.

If you plan to travel over the summer, invite your child to keep a log of what you do and see with words and drawings. At the end of summer, look back at the journal together and discuss your most and least favorite parts of this summer. And, when they go back to school and the teacher gives the inevitable assignment of what did you do this summer, your child will be prepared!

BLOG ABOUT IT

Invite your child and his/her friends to start a blog this summer. If they are movie buffs suggest that they create a movie review blog. Or, make it a book review blog—that way you get in both reading and writing! Other ideas include recipe blogs in which they write recipes and review the outcomes. It could even be an ice cream blog, describing new and different flavors all summer! There really is no limit on what your child can blog about. To get your child excited about the idea of a blog, watch BrainPOP's [Blogs](#) movie.

POP A JOKE

BrainPOP Jr. has a fun feature called “Pop a Joke.” Go to the topic [Summer](#) and click the Pop a Joke button to see an example. Then invite your child to write a joke or riddle. July 1 is International Joke Day—a perfect day for your child to write and share jokes with your family!



SUN SAFETY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

The sun’s rays are powerful and are particularly dangerous in the summer months when we spend so much time outdoors. Watch BrainPOP’s movie [Sun Protection](#) with your child, then use the [Make-a-Map](#) tool to identify the sun’s dangers and ways to protect ourselves. Have your child use the completed concept map to write a PSA about sun safety. You can use the [Make-a-Movie](#) tool to create the PSA, make a video, or write a printed PSA. Have your child share the completed project with friends and family.



JULY FOURTH POETRY

Invite your child to celebrate Independence Day by writing a poem. To review the different types of poems and the elements of poetry watch the BrainPOP Jr. movie [Poems](#) and/or the BrainPOP movie [Poetry](#). For a review of what July 4th is all about, watch BrainPOP’s [Declaration of Independence](#) movie. Have your child read the poem during your family’s July 4th celebrations. If your child had fun writing this poem, continue writing poems all summer!

FAMILY & FRIENDS LETTERS & POSTCARDS

Emails and texts are easy, but they’re not as special as getting a postcard or letter in the mail. Celebrate Friendship Day (August 6) all summer! Write postcards and letters to friends and family who are traveling, are at camp, or just live far away. Your child can even write a letter to a friend nearby. Remind your child how to format a letter with a date, a greeting, and a closing, and how to address an envelope. If necessary, review how to write a letter by exploring the BrainPOP Jr. topic [Sending a Letter](#).



INVENTION PROTOTYPE

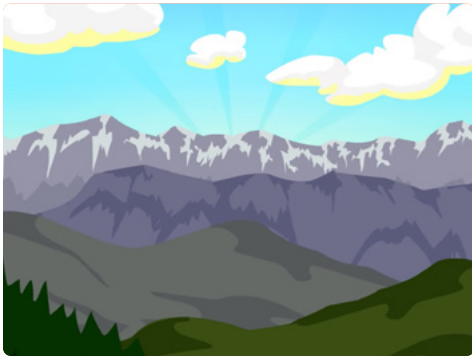
As a family, brainstorm some of the world's most amazing inventions and then challenge your child to come up with an invention idea. For inspiration, watch BrainPOP and/or BrainPOP Jr. movies about famous inventors and their inventions (see list below). Then, review the BrainPOP Jr. topic [Engineering and Design Process](#) about how to design, build, and improve things to solve problems. Finally, have your child develop a prototype of the invention by drawing a picture and writing a description of what it is, the problem it solves, and how it works.

BrainPOP:

[Ben Franklin](#)
[George Washington Carver](#)
[Thomas Edison](#)
[Leonardo Da Vinci](#)
[Wright Brothers](#)

BrainPOP Jr.:

[Alexander Graham Bell](#)
[George Washington Carver](#)



NATIONAL PARK TRAVEL BROCHURE

The National Park Service was established in August 1916, and summer is the perfect time to visit the parks—either in real life or online! Watch the BrainPOP [National Parks](#) movie. Then have your child research one of the parks mentioned in the movie or a different one and write a travel brochure with pictures and captions.

HURRICANE NEWS!

Summer is hurricane season! Watch the BrainPOP [Hurricane](#) movie together. Then have your child research a past or current hurricane. Stepping into the shoes of a journalist, challenge your child to cover news of the the hurricane as if it is happening now. Remind your child to include the hurricane's name, where it formed, its speed, when and where it made landfall, and any other key details.



TRAIL GUIDE

Does your family like to hike? If so, encourage your child to write trail guides of your favorite family hikes this summer. A trail guide helps other hikers navigate a trail by providing information about landmarks and giving specific directions about where to turn. Trail guides often suggest routes to make a hike shorter or longer and things to look out for like poison ivy or animals. A trail guide may also include pictures of what you might see along the way. As you hike, have your child take notes about all of these details, then write the guide when you get home.



SUMMER SENSE STORY

What does summer smell like to your child? How does it sound? Look? Feel? Taste? Watch BrainPOP Jr.'s [Senses](#) movie. Then invite your child to write a short fictional story that incorporates the smells, sights, sounds, touch, and tastes of summer. To review what a short story is all about, watch the BrainPOP Jr. movie [Short Story](#).

HOW-TO ESSAY

Your child is an expert in something, whether its building a sandcastle or tying her shoe! Watch the BrainPOP Jr. movie [How-To Essay](#) with your child. Then help your child brainstorm all the things she/he is an expert in. As an extra challenge, narrow your list to activities related to summertime, like building a sandcastle, swimming the backstroke, playing baseball, making ice cream, etc. Next, have your child choose one activity from the brainstorm list and write a how-to essay. After writing, follow your child's instructions and see if you're successful.



WRITE A PLAY

Invite your child to get together with some friends to write and perform a play this summer. They can re-enact a favorite book, make up an original story, or anything else they can dream up. For inspiration, have them watch BrainPOP's [Drama](#) movie.

BrainPOP Jr. topics offer a feature called Word Play in which your child can choose a word to draw, write, and create a skit about!