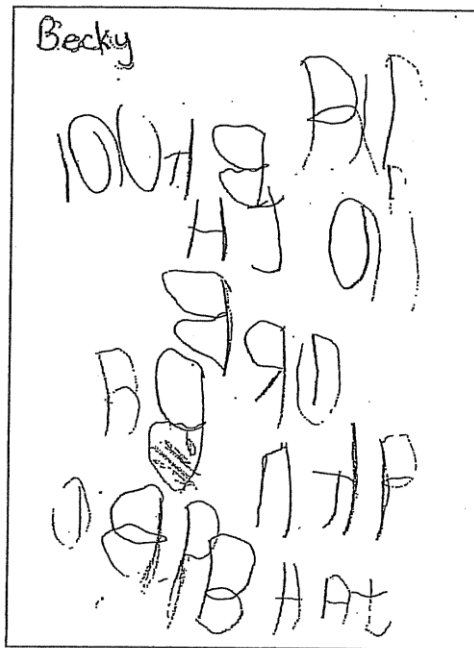


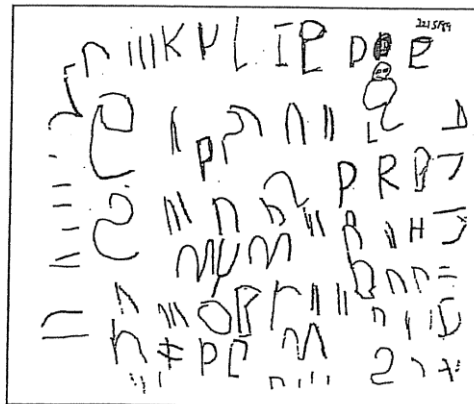


## How Can I Help My Child With Writing?

- Find time to show your child that you value reading & writing for yourself, and share reading & writing with them. Reading teaches children many things about writing and experimenting with writing helps children develop their understandings about reading.
  - Take your child to the library and encourage them to select their own books.
  - Share simple picture storybooks whenever you can. Talk about the pictures and story. Relate events or characters to your child's experiences. Encourage questions and predictions about the stories.
  - Read and sing nursery rhymes with your child. Use as many action rhymes as possible, such as "one little piggy went to market" or "pattacake..."
  - Read books which feature rhyme and repetition. Sometimes point to the words as they are read. Encourage your child to join in and to predict which words come next.
  - Talk about the events of the day, encouraging your child to join in.
  - Talk about print in the environment, e.g. stop signs, advertisements.
  - Show your child how you use writing. Write messages, shopping lists, telephone messages, letters and greeting cards in front of him/her and talk about what you are doing.
  - Provide a special place for your child to write. Equipment such as a small table or desk, an easel-type blackboard and a notice board to display writing plus a range of writing materials such as scrap paper (lined, colored or plain), used greeting cards, crayons, bank forms, mail order forms, envelopes and little notebooks would provide an excellent environment for children to experiment with writing.
  - Find opportunities to display your child's name.
  - When your child asks about letters of the alphabet, call the letters by their name, not sounds they may represent.
  - Talk about alphabet books and answer children's questions.
  - Provide magnetic or plastic letter tiles for children's play.
  - Allow your child to use a computer, typewriter or IPAD to play with and write messages. He or she may discover some letters from his/her own name.
  - Write messages for your child to read, e.g. Please feed the cat, Kim **OR** Please phone Nanna.
- Play rhyming games like "I Spy..."
  - Respond positively to the message in your children's "writing" rather than the letter formations or spelling. Celebrate children's efforts and encourage them to have-a-go at writing. See examples below:



Becky: 'I made my shopping list.'



Kylie: 'I am writing my .mum a letter.'

Becky and Kylie are relating written text to spoken messages. They need encouragement to keep experimenting and having-a-go with writing to continue their development.