



# The Parent Post

Colquitt County Schools Parent and Family Engagement

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## Tips for Parents of Struggling Adolescent Writers

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/tips-parents-struggling-adolescent-writers>

By the time students graduate from high school, they are expected to have learned how to write effectively for a variety of purposes, from writing letters and stories to essays and research reports. Many middle and high school students dislike writing, however, and students who are learning English as a second language may have particular difficulty with writing. In this article we will discuss some of the reasons that older students may want to avoid writing, as well as some ways that you can help your teen become a better writer.

According to educator Regina G. Richards in her article "Understanding Why Students Avoid Writing," these may be some of the reasons that students dislike writing:

They have a hard time getting started and feel overwhelmed by the task.

They need to concentrate to form letters: it is not an automatic process.

They struggle to organize and use mechanics of writing.

They are slow and inefficient in retrieving the right word(s) to express an idea.

They struggle to develop their ideas fluently.

They struggle to keep track of their thoughts while also getting them down on paper.

They feel that the process of writing on paper is slow and tedious.

They feel that the paper never turns out the way they want.

They realize that the paper is still sloppy even though substantial time and effort were spent.

They are dysgraphic, which means that they have extreme difficulty writing legibly as a result of processing problems at the basic cognitive level.

They are dyslexic, which causes very poor spelling and interferes with automatic use of writing mechanics.

### Use a Writing Checklist

Small errors in writing assignments add up – and take away from the final grade. Share this writing checklist that can help him/her catch mistakes:

- Read the paper out loud. (He/She might "hear" mistakes he/she didn't see.)
- Check spelling – start at the end of the paper and read backwards slowly.
- Make sure that every sentence ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point. Tip: Remind him/her not to overuse exclamation points – they'll lose their punch.
- Look for capitalized words. Does every sentence and proper noun start with a capital letter?
- Read one sentence at a time. Is each sentence complete? Does it make sense?

[www.readconintdeceng.pdf](http://www.readconintdeceng.pdf)

## Getting Out the Door on Time

By Professor Matt Sanders

For many families the morning rush hour is the most stressful part of the day. So how can you and the kids get out the door on time? The key is organization.

Get yourself ready first, before your child. To avoid last minute rushing prepare some things the night before and go to bed at a reasonable hour so you'll wake early enough.

I also recommend against having the television on in the morning. Better to make sure the children are dressed before breakfast. Perhaps when they are fully ready you can turn the television on then.

Let your child know ahead of time that you'll be going out and explain exactly what the day's activities will be and their time requirements.

Younger children can learn the importance of organization by doing things for themselves. Teaching children to get dressed by themselves is a chance to practice independent skills and it also saves you time.

You may like to try the —beat the clock game. Your child's goal is to be ready before the alarm clock sounds off. If your child wins, he earns a small treat or reward, such as a favorite snack in his lunch box.

Tell your child exactly what tasks he must do to be ready to leave and thus win the reward. Make sure you set the timer for a reasonable amount of time and avoid giving repeated instructions or nagging your child to hurry up.

Often it will only take a two-week period of beating the clock before the rewards and the clock are phased out. Remember to always praise your child's achievements in learning better organization.

*Professor Matt Sanders is founder of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. For more information go to [www.triplep-parenting.net](http://www.triplep-parenting.net)*

### Ten Riddles to Tickle The Funny Bone

Riddles and jokes delight children.

Try these:

\* What do you call a fairy that hasn't taken a bath?

Answer: A stinkerbell.

\* What does the chewing gum say to the shoe?

Answer: I'm stuck on you.

\* Why are teddy bears never hungry?

Answer: Because they are always stuffed.

\* What did one potato chip say to the other?

Answer: Shall we go for a dip?

\* Why can't you play basketball with pigs?

Answer: Because they hog the ball.

<http://www.parentpagesnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Laughter-best-medSpan.pdf>



*Family and Friends are the true Gifts of Christmas.*

*By: Unknown*

Christmas Break:

December 14, 2017 – January 2, 2018

Return to school on Wednesday, January 3, 2018