



Story Studio

PARENT'S GUIDE

Editing and Revising

Introduction

When writing stories, we stress to students that rather than focusing on their spelling, punctuation and grammar, we want them to focus on their words and ideas in their story. We want them to be proud of the story they write, and for this to happen the story needs to be their own. But that doesn't mean they won't need your support along the way. Your role becomes even more important as a potential scribe, coach, and editor. It's important for child writers to understand the benefit of having others read their story to help them make it even better. These guidelines are not meant to overwhelm you. Your main goal is to maintain your child's voice throughout their story while ensuring it flows in a consistent style. You may choose to work through editing and revising with your child by referencing our Editing and Revising Storysheet complete with explanations, examples and checklists.

Your Role as an Editor

When your child brings you a finished story to edit and review, again begin with genuine positive feedback. You may choose to sit down with your child author to review the story together as a learning activity.

- Start by correcting all basic typo's or spelling mistakes, but honor the spelling of the characters names.
- You will also want to correct punctuation, including quotation marks, commas and periods. *For specific help with direct quotations, take a look at the Direct Quotes storysheet on our website.*
- Add paragraph breaks, leaving one line of space, when a new character or event is introduced, or a new character speaks in the story.
- Make sure the entire story is told in the same perspective - either a narrator (third person) or a character themselves (first person) should be telling the story from start to finish. For an example of each, read [The Hamburger's Adventure](#) by Liam (First person) and [Are We Any Better?](#) by Lily (Third Person)
- In most instances we tell our stories in past tense. Maintain the tense that is used from the start of the story. For an example of past tense writing read [Ash and Isabelle's Great Adventure](#) by Lola. For an example of present tense, read [Lou Finds a Unicorn](#) by Levi.
- Remove excessive use of the word *then* or *and*. For example: *Then I ran across the street. Then I threw my arms around my pet kangaroo. Then I took him home. Then I fed him alfalfa sprouts.* This can be changed to: *I ran across the street. I threw my arms around my pet kangaroo. Then I took him home and fed him alfalfa sprouts.*
- Do not move sentences or paragraphs around because it will sound better.
- Honor your child's use of capitalized words, multiple exclamation marks, and ellipses of three dots.