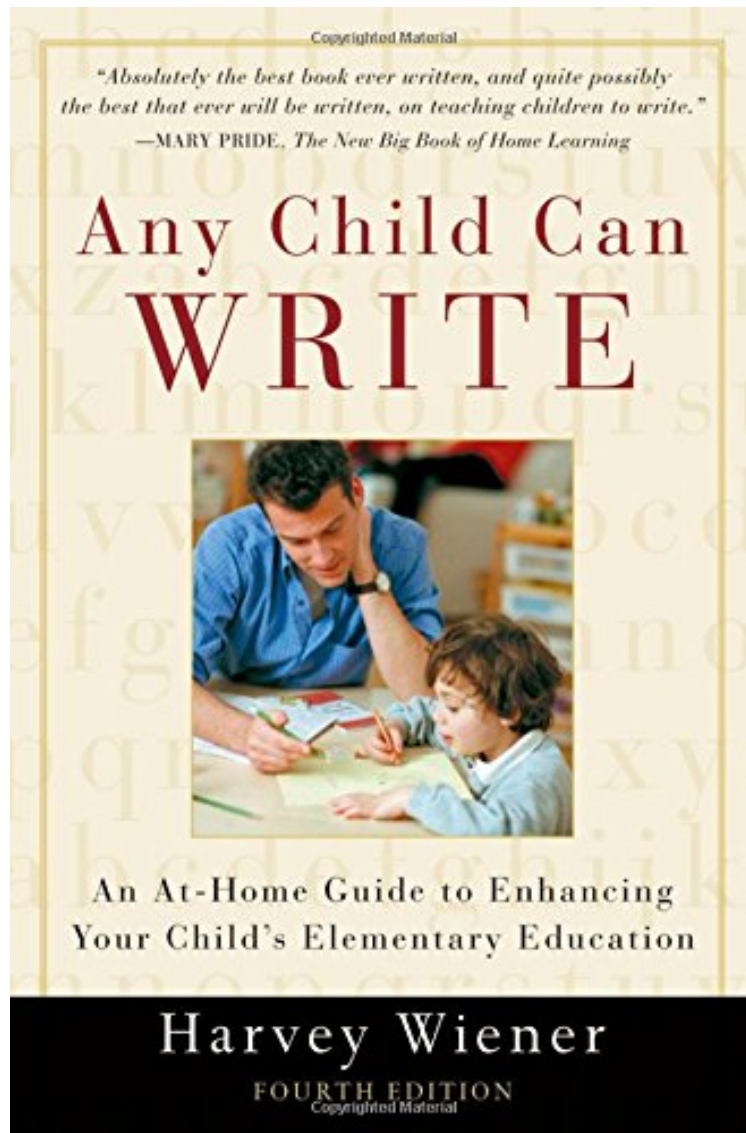


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Any Child Can Write

Harvey S. Wiener

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Harvey S. Wiener : Any Child Can Write before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Any Child Can Write:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring ResourceBy Renee FrahmThis book has some great ideas for inspiring children to become interested in the written word.I purchased this as a teacher resource alongside another curriculum, and it has helped me understand how to approach writing (and reading) from a written word perspective rather than just alphabet and phonics based instruction.Recommended reading for parents and teachers - anyone who is

wanting to help children learn to write. 2 of 9 people found the following review helpful. This book is seriously outdated. By D. Cumberland I have both the pre-2003 revision in paperback and a revised Kindle edition of this book. The attempted update (at least in Kindle format) is seriously deficient in keeping up with the times. The formatting itself is inconsistent and poorly done. There was at least one sentence that ended in mid-air; I'm not sure where the remainder of the thought went, but something went wrong in the formatting. The spacing also moves around oddly and some parts are right-justified inexplicably. In attempting to bring the book up to 21st-century standards, the revision falls incredibly far short. For instance, there is still a sentence that says something like, "For the child lucky enough to have a computer in their home..." For real? I know 5-year-olds who have their own iPad. I did not finish reading this book. In fact, I couldn't get much past the Introduction. I don't know if there's a gold-mine of great ideas in the remainder of the book because the earliest part of the book is so far out of step with the needs of parents today and what writing avenues are sensible for kids of today. I'm also skeptical that the author has any idea that some kids don't gravitate towards writing just because you had them help make grocery lists when they were 5. Some kids appear to have the genetic information from their father, say, who cannot write (handwriting), spell or compose in a legible, grammatically correct way, rather than having the genetic information of their mother, who wrote stories and poems at 11 years old. Just for a hypothetical, example. It's unfortunate; I really wanted this book to be useful to me. The only reason I give it 2 stars and not 1 is because I didn't read the whole book, so perhaps it gets better later on. 32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. Great Writing Advice and Ideas. By P. Gardner. Descriptive, creative expression is the focus of Wiener's book. He gives many concrete examples of how to improve the quality of one's writing. This book is full of fun activities to encourage lively, precise writing--yet it has none of those ghastly, contrived writing assignments. Instead the author states: "A better synonym for creative writing is 'autobiography.'" Those countless moments in an individual's life--brief, intense stretches of time--stud a child's day and glitter in his mind like diamonds long after the moments pass. By recalling those moments of experience through sensory language--specific, exact, sharply drawn--the young writer can practice the vital skills of writing. ...you should mine the riches of experiences in every child's world, riches for the pen or pencil to transform into record." My children refer to the lists of tips I copied from "Any Child Can Write" as they write about their experiences, or a book they read, or a painting they studied. The lists help them write a description of a place or person or event. They also use more descriptive vocabulary as they write about a photo to place in their scrapbook. We find our writing has improved from our time with Mr. Wiener.

Harvey S. Wiener shows how parents can encourage their children to write with a home program that can be used from preschool through high school. Beginning with the building of attitudes, Wiener moves through simple, varied and practical experience with the written word. By setting up an atmosphere in the home that encourages creative written expression, coupled with a parent's guidance in writing, children gain an outlook on writing that builds confidence in their abilities to use language. This new edition addresses many heated issues about children's education and touches on today's critical debates: parents' roles in school preparations, the increased stress on writing assessment and performance measures throughout a child's education and across school sectors, and the debate over phonics. A revised and expanded section called "Key Books for Young Writers and Their Parents" will help any family stock its shelves with useful books for a home writing program. A new chapter discusses the ubiquity of home computers and word processing programs and assesses their positive and negative influences on children's home learning experiences. In addition, Wiener describes how to find the best educational online resources and how to supervise a child's work on the Internet. Furthermore, he emphasizes the importance of collaboration--child and parent, child and sibling--to help avoid computer abuse and establish good computer practices. Finally, he integrates discussion on computers through the text, and also offers writing exercises and samples for children to obtain from Oxford's website.

From Library Journal. Notable for a positive, upbeat tone and readable, informal style, these books, by the author of several other titles on language skills, will motivate, even inspire, parents to supplement and enrich their children's learning experiences. Unlike most recent home-learning books, *Any Child Can Read* does not cover reading drills, phonetics, sight vocabulary, or sounding out. Rather than urging parents to teach reading, Wiener addresses the ways in which they can help children perform the intellectual tasks involved in critical reading: understanding concepts and meanings, developing skills of inference, determining differences, generalizing, extracting information, and drawing conclusions. He includes a fully annotated list of recommended books for grades one through six with suggestions for talking intelligently with children about the books. This will be a valuable tool for parents, and teachers will find many suggestions they can use in the classroom. *Any Child Can Write*, a revised edition of a 1978 best seller (LJ 6/15/78) now out of print, outlines a home program that encourages creative writing. Word games, sentence crafts, autobiography, poetry, narration, painting word pictures, letter writing, and preparing school reports are covered. Appendixes list 100 topics for writing, dictionaries and wordbooks for children, and language skill books for parents. Libraries with the first edition may not find it necessary to acquire this one, although it does contain some updated material. Concerned parents and institutions without the first should have it.- Shirley L. Hopkinson, California State

Univ., San Jose Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Engaging.... [Wiener] makes the job a serious kind of child's play, with some of the gratification instant to both parent and child."--Christian Science Monitor (on previous edition)"Absolutely the best book ever written, and quite possibly the best that ever will be written, on teaching children to write."-Mary Pride, author of The New Big Book of Home Learning (on previous edition)About the AuthorHarvey S. Weiner is Vice-President, Marymount Manhattan College, and author of Any Child Can Read Better, 2nd ed. (OUP 1996).