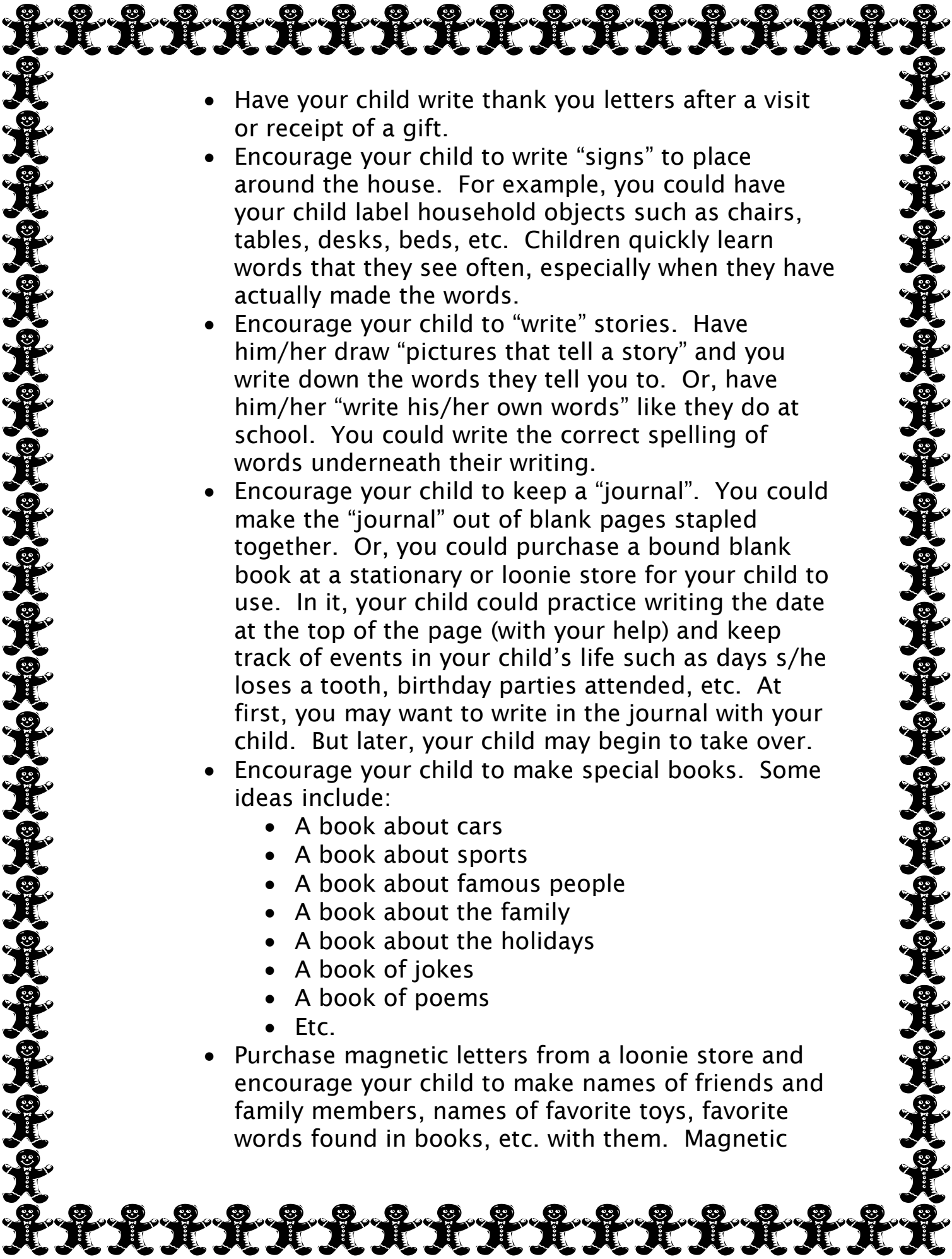


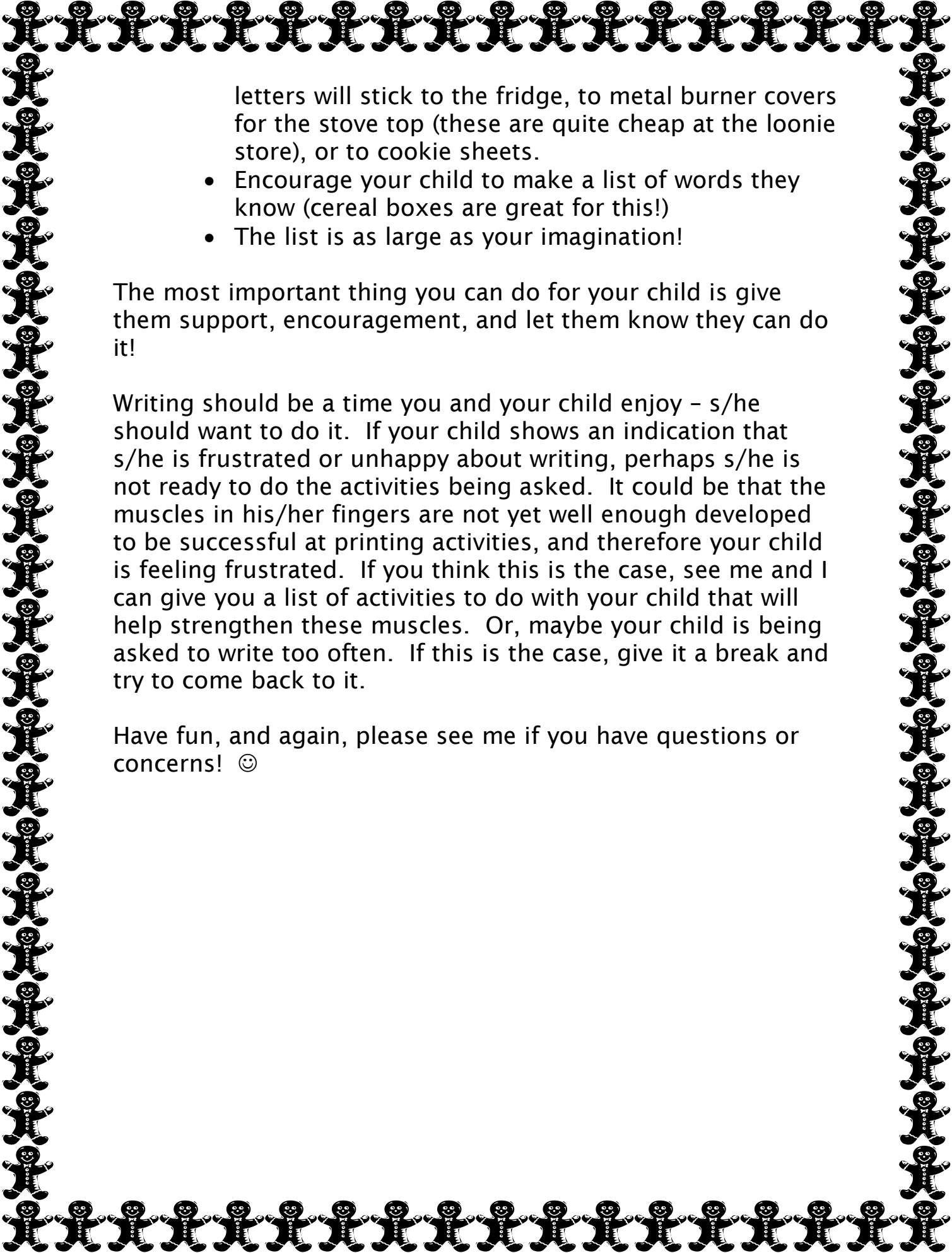


Ways To Support Writing At Home

“Research indicates that children engage in literacy events more in the home than in school” (Schickedanz & Sullivan, 1984). This evidence supports the importance of parents as writing models. As parents, you can do SO MUCH to further your child’s writing skill and ability simply by letting them see you write and by encouraging them to do so in some of the following ways:

- Let your child see you write often and for a variety of purposes (i.e. writing a grocery list, a letter, a note, etc.)
- Become a note-writing family. Leave notes around the home: “Dear Lisa. Your room is SO tidy! Thank you! Love, Mom.” “Dear Tim. Remember what you promised! Love, Dad.” “Have a great day! Love, Grandpa.” Leave them on a bed, in a backpack, on a notice board, or stuck with a magnet on the fridge.
- Make your own cards. Cut them from colored paper, add an illustration or photo and help your child write some words (or have him/her write his/her “own” words). Send them for Christmas, Easter, birthdays, congratulations, get-well messages, etc.
- Have a pin-up board. Located in the kitchen or dining room, it can carry notes, cards, jokes, cartoons, comic strips, writing and drawing done, etc. Make it a place for “showing off” writing.
- Encourage personal letters. Children can write to relatives, pen pals, e-mail pals, friends who have moved away, etc. Your child may need suggestions for things to write about – “Don’t forget the trip to... Mention that movie you liked... How about the joke you told me...”, etc.

- 
- Have your child write thank you letters after a visit or receipt of a gift.
 - Encourage your child to write “signs” to place around the house. For example, you could have your child label household objects such as chairs, tables, desks, beds, etc. Children quickly learn words that they see often, especially when they have actually made the words.
 - Encourage your child to “write” stories. Have him/her draw “pictures that tell a story” and you write down the words they tell you to. Or, have him/her “write his/her own words” like they do at school. You could write the correct spelling of words underneath their writing.
 - Encourage your child to keep a “journal”. You could make the “journal” out of blank pages stapled together. Or, you could purchase a bound blank book at a stationary or loonie store for your child to use. In it, your child could practice writing the date at the top of the page (with your help) and keep track of events in your child’s life such as days s/he loses a tooth, birthday parties attended, etc. At first, you may want to write in the journal with your child. But later, your child may begin to take over.
 - Encourage your child to make special books. Some ideas include:
 - A book about cars
 - A book about sports
 - A book about famous people
 - A book about the family
 - A book about the holidays
 - A book of jokes
 - A book of poems
 - Etc.
 - Purchase magnetic letters from a loonie store and encourage your child to make names of friends and family members, names of favorite toys, favorite words found in books, etc. with them. Magnetic



letters will stick to the fridge, to metal burner covers for the stove top (these are quite cheap at the loonie store), or to cookie sheets.

- Encourage your child to make a list of words they know (cereal boxes are great for this!)
- The list is as large as your imagination!

The most important thing you can do for your child is give them support, encouragement, and let them know they can do it!

Writing should be a time you and your child enjoy – s/he should want to do it. If your child shows an indication that s/he is frustrated or unhappy about writing, perhaps s/he is not ready to do the activities being asked. It could be that the muscles in his/her fingers are not yet well enough developed to be successful at printing activities, and therefore your child is feeling frustrated. If you think this is the case, see me and I can give you a list of activities to do with your child that will help strengthen these muscles. Or, maybe your child is being asked to write too often. If this is the case, give it a break and try to come back to it.

Have fun, and again, please see me if you have questions or concerns! ☺