Helicopter Stories

In Year R, we use helicopter stories to explore writing narratives and writing for a purpose. The children use the format "Character, Setting, Problem, Solution" to create their own stories, and then act them out with their friends.

Here are the symbols for each part of the story. Talk with your child about who their character is and ask questions such as "What do they look like?", "Do they have any special powers" and "What makes them happy?"

Ask questions about their setting too. "What can you hear?", "What colours can you see?" and even "What does it smell like?" will prompt their imagination.

This is the problem, which can be anything at all! Ask questions such as "How will the problem affect your character?" and "How will your character feel during the problem?"

Here is the solution, which will solve the problem in some way. It is often a different way than you expect, so encourage your child to be creative here!

Before your child writes their story, think about how they want it to start. Instead of a boring "Once upon a time", try "One dark, stormy night" or "On a cold and frosty morning"…

Encourage your child to use their phonics. They will not spell every word correctly and this is a good thing, as they are learning the links between sounds and letters and this is a **key** part of writing development. If you spell every word for your child, you will end up holding them back in the long run! For example, "One day" may be spelt "Wun dai" and this should be celebrated, not corrected. However, if you know your child knows how to spell a word such as "to" and they spell it incorrectly, you can then remind them of the correct spelling for next time. You know your child best, so work at their level with them.

When your child has written their story, you could go one step further and act it out as a family. This gives their writing purpose and also helps them to understand whether their story makes sense, supporting them to not make the same mistakes next time.

Good luck!