

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: Writing a postcard

Writing a postcard provides a meaningful and engaging way to encourage language development, fine motor skills, cultural awareness, literacy skills and creative expression in young children.

Learning aims

- Literacy development – express themselves using mark-making, emergent writing and/or writing. Practise identifying letters, sounds and words
- Understanding the world – an opportunity to explore different places, countries, cultures, traditions, landmarks and other languages
- Expressive art and design – encourage self-expression, imagination, and creativity.



Resources

- Blank postcards, index cards or postcards made from card
- Commercial postcards to show as examples
- Pencils, markers, crayons, etc
- Pictures of famous landmarks, destinations or activities
- Stickers or decorative materials (optional)
- Stamps (optional) or pretend stamps.

Activity outline

1. Introduce the concept of postcards. Explain that postcards don't require an envelope, there is only space for a short message, and they are usually sent to people we care about. Show the children a few examples. Draw children's attention to the fact that postcards have a front (photo/drawing) and a back (writing/address/stamp)
2. Share your own experiences of sending or receiving postcards and, if possible, share an example. Talk about how you felt when you received the postcard. Ask children who have sent or received a postcard to share their experiences and encourage them to express how they felt when sending or receiving a postcard

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3. Ask the children to choose someone to send a postcard to - a family member, friend, favourite character or even a pet. Encourage them to explain why they have chosen that person or animal. This may require modelling: choose someone yourself and explain why you would like to send that person a postcard, e.g. "I will send my postcard to my friend to tell them about a fun thing I've done on holiday and that I miss them"
4. Discuss the photographs or pictures on the example postcards. Talk about where they are from (you could use a map or a globe to locate the country or area)
5. Creating the image: Provide pencils, markers, crayons, pictures of destinations, etc. and let children express their creativity by decorating the front of their postcards. Remind the children to leave the back of the postcard blank for their message
6. Writing the message: Model writing a postcard together with a small group of children. Help those children who are ready to sound out the words they want to write and model letter formation. Children who are inspired by this activity will want to express their feelings, emotions and descriptions and will be motivated to 'write' their own messages. Encourage and give praise for all mark-making that children do
7. Posting the postcards: Make a post-box with the children for them to mail their postcards. If you are able to facilitate sending postcards to a real destination, then take the children to the post office to buy stamps and post the cards.

Extension ideas

- [Post Crossing](#) - a project that allows you to send postcards and receive postcards back from people around the world
- Put blank postcards in the writing area, with examples of messages to copy or inspire
- Put pictures of destinations in the writing area to use or inspire
- Create a postcard display
- Send a postcard to the children at your setting
- Ask parents/carers to send postcards to the setting if they go on holiday.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Let's look at writing](#) – online course.