

In this story, a boy named Peter decides to write a letter to his friend Amy. The different writing and signs present throughout the story provide opportunities to discuss the different forms of letters and writing.

### CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

### INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

#### Children will:

#### Teachers will:

### COMMUNICATE



- ◆ Notice the different forms of print
- ◆ Understand how different writing intentionally conveys meaning

- ◆ Discuss the form and function of different forms of writing

### TEACHING TIP

One piece in the foundation of early writing skills is children’s knowledge of different types of writing. Knowing the letters and words that make up sentences and messages are only part of the puzzle – it’s also important to understand the function, form, and purpose of print. As children become more comfortable with their knowledge of writing and the rules of print, they are increasingly able to plan how to intentionally deliver a message to an audience. Keeping interesting print around your learning environment is an important way to introduce the many different forms and functions of print and can give children ideas to try out in their own writing.

### 1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “Have you ever gotten a letter from family or friends? Letters are written to give a message. Today we’ll notice and talk about the different kinds of words and writing in this story, *A Letter To Amy*.”

### 2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to label the form of different types of writing and words in the story.
- ◆ Note the function of different text or writing present in the book.

### Discuss the Form and Function of Different Forms of Writing

**Read:** “We-e-el-l, this way it’s sort of special.”

**Label:** “Peter is writing a message to Amy. First, he will start with her name, in the middle of the letter is where he will write his main message. At the end of the letter, he’ll write his name.”

**Note:** “Writing a letter is a way to say hello to someone or tell them something. Peter is telling Amy to come to his party.”

**Read:** “They both ran for the letter.”

**Label:** “The writing here on the outside of the letter tells you who the letter is for or gives extra information.”

**Note:** “The signs with the big letters behind Amy are written that way to get people’s attention and let them know what their business does. This one says, ‘How Soon Hand Laundry’”.

**Read:** “HAAPPY BIRRRTHDAY, PEEETERRR!” repeated the parrot.”

**Label:** “The words that the parrot says here are big, capital letters.”

**Note:** “The parrot’s words being written like this tells me that the parrot was saying them loudly.”

### 3. REVIEW

- ◆ “In this book, we saw words written in a letter giving a message, words written on a sign telling us about a business, and even the words of the book telling us about how a parrot talks. Different kinds of writing give us different messages.”

### 4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Tie in different forms of print and writing during free play, such as putting stationery and envelopes in your writing center for children to write their own letters or including menus with interesting text in your dramatic play center. Be sure to note and discuss the different forms of print around your environment during the day. Pointing out the form and function of signs, labels, and tags all around can happen at any time!