

Life Story Work - All About Me

How to Write in the Life Story Mosaic Work Step -
some anonymised live examples to inspire you

We have anonymised some live examples of writing to children and young people in the Life Story Work Step to help you to think about how you might write to children and young people you are working with. Top tips are:

- Use [tact-language-that-cares](#) as a reference for words that children have told us they prefer.
- Take a minute to think about the child or young person reading what you are about to write and the impact it might have on them.
- Address your writing to them in a warm tone that tells them you know them and care about them.
- Use their name, not initials. Explain who other people are when you first refer to them in case the child can't remember who they are when they are older.
- Take extra care to write about difficult issues in a non-judgmental, empathetic way.
- Take care to quality check that any attachments that you upload add value to the child's life story.



Sample - How to write to a young child in Life Story - All about me

Michael, today was your Child Looked After review meeting at your foster home where you live with your foster carer Maureen and your big sister Mandy. A CLA review is when the adults in your life come together to talk about how you are developing and discuss your Care Plan. Your IRO Hayley came to the meeting as well as your social worker Eric, Maureen's supervising social worker Latoya and Claudette the Children's Practitioner.

This is your first review meeting since you were discharged from hospital and came to live with Maureen and Mandy 3 months ago. You are now 4 months old, and you have grown so much since you were born. Today you were wearing a yellow bodysuit and leggings with sunflowers on, you really suit the colour yellow. You are wearing 3-6 month clothing now although some of them are still a little big for you. Your hair is growing, and you have beautifully long eyelashes. It is still quite straight; we are not sure if it will go curly yet like your sisters.

Maureen updated everyone that you are developing well, you are mostly content and love to be held by Maureen. Maureen calls you her little "Treasure", this is her nickname for you. You are becoming stronger by the day and can nearly hold your head up. You are an active baby and love kicking your legs about. You love bath time now; Maureen tells us that you enjoy splashing your hands around and that you don't mind being dressed afterwards. The adults loved cuddling you today, you showed us all your beautiful smiles. You have started cooing and making funny facial expressions when someone is talking to you which is very endearing. In the last two weeks you have started sleeping through the night which Maureen is very happy with. You are still a very good drinker; you have always enjoyed your milk since you were born. Helen fed you your milk today, you were very good and did a big burp afterwards before falling asleep in Maureen's arms. We took some photos of you so that you can see how you are growing into a beautiful little girl.

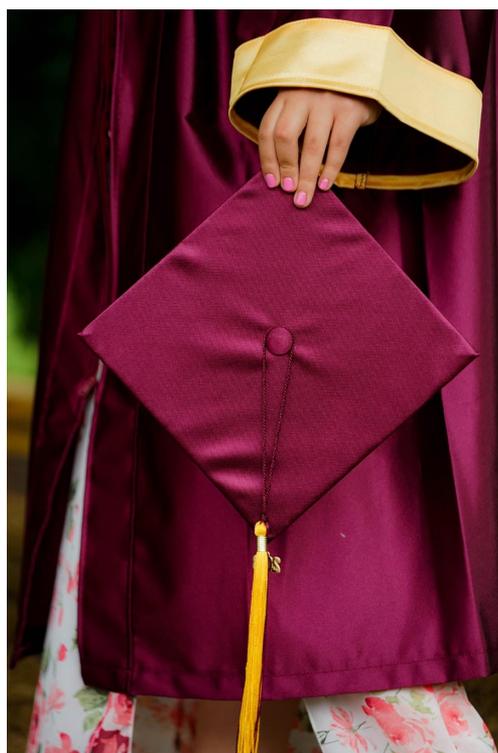


Sample - How to write to a young child in Life Story - All about me



Ellie-Mae, Today you had a birthday party with your friends from school to celebrate your sixth birthday. You turned six on the 2nd May 2022 but this was a Monday and you were at school. Karen (mummy) organised a birthday party for you on the 7th May 2022 to celebrate your special day with your school friends. You have been so excited about turning six and could not wait to celebrate this! A bouncy castle was delivered and set up in your back garden, you had birthday cake and played pass the parcel with your friends. You described this day as 'the best day ever!'

Imani, you have completed your GCSE's at Southfields Academy and went to an award ceremony. You received an award for hard work and dedication to your studies. I came along to cheer and Dede from the Virtual School came too. We talked to one of your teachers, Miss Khan, who said it has been a pleasure to have you in her class. Well done, Imani! I am so proud of everything you have achieved. I've attached some photos of us all at the ceremony and some of you with your friends Rachel and Reuben.



Sample - How to write to a young child in Life Story - All about me

Malia, it was lovely talking to you today about your life story. You told me you were born in England on 28th April 2003. You lived with her mother in Essex until you were about 6 or 7 years old. When your mum couldn't look after you went to live with your maternal grandparents in Holland.

Your first memory in Holland was running into a glass door and banging your head. You also remembered a dream you had about your mum on the first night. You dreamt that your mum would not give you any chocolate and you were crying.

Your love for music started while you were living in Holland. Your uncle Henry, who also lived with your grandparents, made you fall in love with music. He was a musician who performed at various locations across Holland. On one occasion you performed alongside him on stage.

It was sad to hear that other than having a musical influence on you, you did not like your uncle. You described him as a cruel man.

You went to a Dutch school in Holland when you were 7 for 2 to 3 years. You were fluent in both Dutch and French. You remember your mum always speaking in French.

You remember when your mother came to Holland and took you back to England. When you were about 9 years old. Your mother was with you stepfather, Mr Porter at this time.

Back in England you went to primary school in Lambeth. Your mum gave you a Blackberry mobile phone, but you found attending school difficult. You suffered from separation anxiety. You still suffers from anxiety today.

I asked if you could have brought 3 things from Holland with you what would they be? You told me your dolls, your violin, and your grandfather, Opa.

We talked about being in care. You told me you didn't have a good relationship with your former foster carer and hadn't learned anything from them. You felt that they did not like you and were only fostering for the money. They didn't take time to do anything with you or to teach you anything. They weren't sympathetic when your mother passed, in fact you said they were quite cruel at times.

You did remember some good times in care. You enjoyed trips to the seaside and the North. You remembered when the other foster kids in the house along with the fosters carer's daughter who you had a good relationship with, decorated your room for your birthday.

