Get out the Sharpened Pencils and Write!

February is the perfect time to create a writing spot in your home. If you have space, set up a more permanent place to inspire ideas - with a comfy chair and good lighting. If not, create a mobile writing center - with plastic bins and colorful labels.

Writing tools should be readily available, so when we say. . .
> *Can you make a quick list for me?*
> *Grandma isn't feeling well. Can someone please write her a quick note?*
> *Who wants a playdate? Write your buddy a note and invite him or her over to play!*
> *Write down three movies you want to see this summer, and we'll pick one out of a hat for this rainy day!*

. . . our kids are quick to jump at the chance to do the job!

For many of us, February brings visions of friendship and class parties. Instead of purchasing a class-set of valentine cards, direct your child to the new, vibrant writing spot. Provide old writing pads, leftover magazines or newspapers, and construction paper. Scavenge the junk drawer for colored pens, markers, and crayons. Use soup cans to hold the pencils and pens. Add stickers, stencils, highlighters, post-its, lined paper, and stamps.

If letter and cards motivate your child to write, try these ideas:
- Write a letter to a Disney character and get a postcard in return. Disney World will send you an autographed postcard when you write a letter to the following address:
  > Walt Disney World Communications
  > P.O. Box 10040
  > Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-0040
- Write a letter to his or her favorite author.   Use the publisher's address and enclose a SASE with the letter to increase the likelihood of a response.
- Write a letter to his or her favorite toy company.
- Spread kindness by writing letters to our troops - there are many nonprofit organizations that will forward letters. Here is one:
  > HOME (Help Our Military Endure)
  > P.O. Box 57636
  > Webster, TX 77598-7636

If paper and pencils don't motivate, emails and texts always seem to capture the 21st century generation's attention!

Happy Writing!
-Ms. D.