

Brighten your day with kids' stationery

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Introduce your kids to stationery and handwritten notes, and you will create lasting memories with them – not to mention smiles on the faces of the recipients. But maybe it's been awhile since you wrote a note by hand, and you're not sure where to start. Before you give up on the idea, think of the last time you received a letter or a card in the mail. Somehow, seeing a handwritten envelope in a stack of ads and bills is more special than receiving a Facebook post. It's a pleasant surprise that gets you excited: you know that someone took the time to select just the right stationery and send a special message just for you. It's even more special when you see a child's handwriting on that note.

Teaching your kids to write heartwarming notes doesn't have to be a chore. You just need a plan. Before you get started, decide what kind of notes you'd like to help your kids write. Is there a special teacher they can send a thank-you note to? Do your kids have friends who live far away, who might like to receive a letter? Once you know what type of note you're going to help them send, sit down with your kids and pick out some fun stationery together. One good place to start is a website called Expressionery.com – take a look at their Paper People line, which offers hundreds of adorable, hand-drawn characters from artist Laura Kelly. The right stationery will lend that extra special touch and get your creativity flowing. Choose a notecard or a flat card and pair it with a whimsical address label. Your kids will get excited about the project when they get to help pick the stationery, and they'll get a big kick out of personalizing their stationery with any of the hundreds of Paper People that fit their own interests and personalities.

Once your stationery arrives, grab some colored pens – maybe even embellishments like glitter or ribbon if you're feeling extra crafty. Bake a fresh batch of cookies, grab a couple of glasses of ice-cold milk, and let your imagination take you away. Show your kids how to write long-hand. Forget the LOL's and TTYL's – just write from the heart. Even a short message is sure to bring a smile to the recipients, just because you took the time to help your kids write a simple note.

