



Secret Message Box

A Special Message for Someone Special!

Beginner: Write or draw messages for family members or friends and place them in a decorated message box; then read them together as a family.

[Tip]: Use shoe or tissue boxes, as well as stickers, markers, images, or paint for decoration.

Intermediate: Have everyone create and decorate their own message box, and share simple messages with one another.

[Tip]: Encourage your child to write letters or sound out words in their messages.

Experienced: Encourage your child to write messages and memories to save in their own message box.

[Tip]: Family members can read these at a special time, like the end of the school year or New Year's Eve.

Why is this important? Messages have meaning and can have a big impact on others.

References: Chohan, S. K. (2011). Any letter for me? Relationships between an elementary school letter writing program and student attitudes, literacy achievement, and friendship culture. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 39(1), 39–50.
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Hill, B. C. (2001). *Developmental continuums: A framework for literacy instruction and assessment K-8*. Christopher Gordon Pub.