

Wild One Raising

A Creative Writing Guide for Mamas



Your Creative Writing Roadmap

A practical guide for mamas ready to tap into the power and impact of creative writing.



The *Brainstorm*

Oftentimes, preparing to write is the biggest block on our journey to creativity. Here are some practical ways to jump into your creative writing practice.

Getting in the *mindset*. Answer the following to mentally prepare for creativity:

- **WHY** are you interested in writing?
- **WHEN** are you most creative? (Evenings? Early mornings?)
- **WHAT** do you like reading? (Or watching, or listening to?)
- **WHO** is the intended audience of content that you enjoy?
- **HOW** do you want to feel after participating in a creative project?

Connect with your *creativity* by considering:

- Is there a narrative on your chest that would feel **empowering to get down on paper**?
- Is there a story (fiction or non-fiction!) you would want to **share with your kids one day**?
- What story would **your family and friends love to see written** from your perspective?
- What piece of creative work **makes you feel deeply**? Can your intention for writing be to create that same type of feeling?

The Writing Process

We often overflow with good ideas but have difficulty translating these ideas from our brains to paper. Here are a few tips to help you navigate the writing and editing process.

The Shitty First Draft

- **Resist the urge to edit as you go:**
 - It's easier to edit a finished piece than finish a piece with only a few perfect paragraphs!
 - What does this mean for you and your creative writing? Forgo perfection and get all the ideas on paper as they come to you (future you will thank you.)
- **Time yourself:**
 - Brain dump onto the page for twenty-five minutes - no editing allowed! Give yourself a five-minute break, then start again.
 - This is known as the Pomodoro Technique and can help you effectively manage your creative time as a busy mama.
- **Keep track of writing ideas:**
 - Write them down as they come to you throughout the day and night. The notes section of your phone is great for this!
 - *Hint:* Don't assume you will remember the brilliant simile you came up with in the shower or while driving. Be intentional about writing down your ideas as soon as you can.

The Dreaded Edits

- **Ask a friend to edit:**
 - It can be scary to share imperfect work - but it is also a powerful practice in vulnerability! Find someone you trust and have them do a read-through of your draft. (Sometimes, we are so immersed in our own words, that we can miss even common mistakes!)
- **The "read aloud" method:**
 - Catch sneaky mistakes by reading your draft aloud to someone or yourself!
 - Hint: Reading to a pet is another great solution
- **Prioritize clarity and conciseness:**
 - Creative writers often forget the importance of brevity. But keeping your story simple helps the reader stay engaged
 - Get rid of unnecessarily long sentences or unnecessary prepositional phrases
- **Maintain your unique style and tone:**
 - Don't forgo the stylistic side of your writing because it goes against what you learned in English class. (This may mean you break a few grammar rules - and that's ok!)

The *Show and Tell*

For some, sharing is a powerful piece of the creative process. But choosing whom you share your words with is critical.

The Art of Receiving Feedback

- **Determine who you are going to take feedback from:**
 - Not everyone's feedback should be taken to heart!
 - (If they aren't a writer or a reader, are they a good judge of your work?)
- **Progress over perfection:**
 - Your latest work may not be a Pulitzer prize winner, and that's ok!
 - Compare your latest piece to your previous pieces (it's the best indicator of progress.)
- **Keep track of lessons learned:**
 - Do you tend to burn out halfway through a novel? Try writing a short story. Is your tendency to add too many characters? Make a list and limit them!
 - Keep track of lessons learned and apply them to future work

Publication Opportunities

- **Themed writing contests:**
 - The internet is chock-full of publications and contest-seeking niche content (including articles and stories about motherhood, parenting, and children's content!)
 - Search for contests or submission opportunities within your specific niche
- **Consider a blog or other publishing platforms:**
 - A WordPress blog or an account on Medium.com are great ways to get your words to an audience (with a guaranteed publication!)
- **Literary magazines and publishers:**
 - Working with a developmental editor (like Wild One Writing!) can help you solidify your piece and make it "publishing ready."
 - This type of editor should also be able to help you navigate the ins and outs of the publishing or self-publishing world

