Capital, Question Mark, Full Stop: Checking Your Own Sentences in Year 2

Key points

- In Year 2, children learn to read through their own sentences and check them – a skill that develops with practice.
- Every sentence needs a capital letter at the start and an ending mark (full stop, question mark or exclamation mark).
- When you read a sentence aloud, it should make sense on its own and express one complete thought.
- Self-checking is exactly what teachers look for in Year 2 writing assessments.
- It's normal for children to need reminding – noticing and fixing errors is a skill, not something they'll do perfectly yet.

Things to try at home

- When your child reads a book aloud, pause and ask 'How does this sentence start?' or 'What mark is at the end?' – turn it into spotting, not correcting.
- Write short sentences together on paper or a whiteboard and let them circle capital letters and add full stops before you do.
- After your child writes something (a shopping list, a message, a story), ask 'Does that make sense? Does it tell someone one idea?' rather than fixing it yourself.
- Keep sentences your child likes (from books or things they say) and notice the capitals and marks together – no pressure, just talking about them.
- Praise noticing: if they spot a missing full stop or capital in their own work, that's the real win – point it out warmly.

Find out more

- National Curriculum for English, Year 2: search GOV.UK for 'key stage 1 english'.
- Ask your child's teacher: find out what Year 2 writing expectations are at your school.
- Education Makes Sense: Year 2 English resources for parents.