

Parents in the Know

Focus on Writing

The Writing Process

Children go through the same process of writing that authors do. Just like reading, writing follows a sequence of events. The Writing Process in class often includes:

1. **Prewriting:** Brainstorm ideas. Many children like to use some sort of graphic organizer to help them organize their thoughts.
2. **Rough Draft:** Get ideas down. Don't worry about spelling or neatness yet.
3. **Peer Editing:** Ask someone else to give you feedback about your writing. What do they like? What don't they get? What should be changed?
4. **Revising:** Learn from the editing feedback. Make changes based on that.
5. **Editing:** Meet with someone when you think your story is done. They will review grammar, spelling, and provide you with additional story feedback.
6. **Final Draft:** After completing the piece, meet with the teacher to discuss the piece.
7. **Publishing:** Typing or writing the final piece and sharing it with others.



Encouraging Young Writers

There are many things that you can do to encourage your child to enjoy writing.

- * Display your child's writing. Share it with others.
- * Provide fun materials for your child to work with. A clip board, journal, or fancy colorful pen help make writing special.
- * Help your child edit his work. This provides a wonderful opportunity to work with your child on topics such as punctuation, grammar, story elements, and spelling.
- * Encourage your child to keep a daily journal.

Based on: "Writing Milestones", Reading and Language, PBS Parents, http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/second/writing_milestone_second.html

Meet Ruth Heller

Ruth Heller was an author and illustrator of children's books. Her work includes two science series, World of Nature and How to Hide. She is best known for her grammar series World of Language. These beautifully illustrated vibrant stories help explain the parts of speech to children. Some books from the series include:

[A Cache of Jewels and Other Collective Nouns](#)

[Kites Sail High: A Book About Verbs](#)

[Many Luscious Lollipops: A Book About Adjectives](#)

[Merry-Go-Round: A Book About Nouns](#)

[Up, Up and Away: A Book About Adverbs](#)



What Research Says

Parents are essential for their children to experience academic success. Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Therefore, it is important that you understand this important role and feel comfortable with it.

Terms, theories, and educational practices change over time. Therefore, it is likely that what you remember about school is very different from what your child experiences. Many of the concepts are the same. However, the way that they are taught may be different. That is to be expected. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you are unsure about what to do or how to work with your child!

Based on: Andrea J. Beck, "Parental Involvement in the Development of Young Writers", Childhood Education, http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3614/is_200210/a1_n9122665/

Focus on Writing

Building A Writer's Studio

Writing is exciting. It allows children to express themselves in new ways. Whether a short poem or long essay, writing is also a lot of work. Make a special place for your child to write. This will help your child value the writing process and appreciate how much you value his efforts. Your child's studio doesn't need to be a special room. It can be a desk in the corner, end table, or even the kitchen table.

To help motivate your child, include supplies that will help make the process special. Some examples include:

Dictionary
Thesaurus
Journal
Clip Board
Colored Pens
Pencils
Stationary
Notebooks
Blank Paper
Construction Paper



Good Writers Read!

Good writers not only write a lot, they also read. Great writers are always reading and writing. There are many different types of books your children can read. The most common genres of children's literature include:

Realism: Stories that seem real

Nonfiction: Stories that are real

Fiction: Stories that are made up

Folktales: Stories passed down orally. Included in this group are myths, fables, tall tales, fairy tales, and legends.

Books About Letter Writing

Letters are fun to write. Many authors are using letters to teach children about story structure, point of view, and other literacy elements. Some fun examples include:



The Jolly Postman, by Allan Ahlberg

With Love, Little Red Hen, by Alma Flor Ada
Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type, by Doreen Cronin

Detective LaRue: Letters from the Investigation, by Mark Teague

Yours Truly, Goldilocks, by Alma Flor Ada

First Year Letters, by Julie Danneberg

Dear Annie, by Judith Caseley

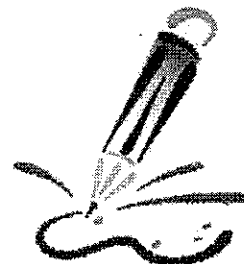
"If you read good books, when you write, good books will come out of you." ~ Natalie Goldberg

Writing Activities to Try at Home

There are many things other than stories that children can write. Some fun ideas include:

Letters
Messages in a Bottle
Television Commercials
Jingles
Jokes
Postcards
Menus
Plays
Riddles

Raps
Story problems
Chants
Newspaper Articles
Slogans
Bumper Stickers
Autobiography
Timelines
Games



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