

Connecting Writing to the Science of Reading: Foundations for Developing Writing in Young Learners

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Meet Your Presenter

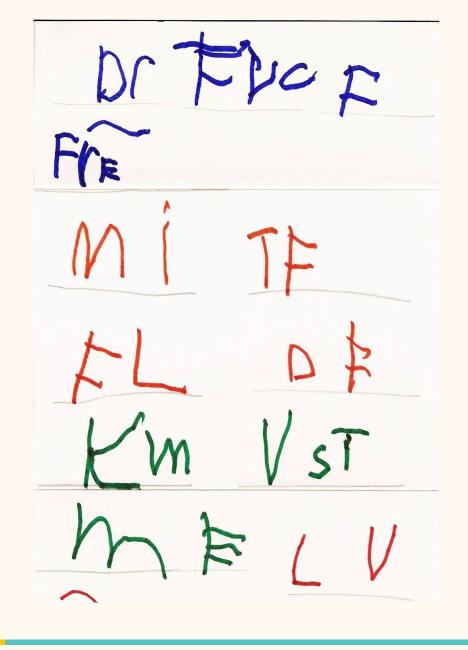


Dr. Lucy Hart Paulson, Ed.D., CCC-SLPLiteracy Specialist

What You'll Learn

- The developmental connections between reading and writing in the early literacy time period
- Assessment strategies to identify levels of writing skill development
- How to implement research-based instruction techniques to facilitate writing as well as enhance other language and literacy skills





Dear Tooth
Fairy
My tooth
Fell off
Come visit
Me Love...





TOPICS



Foundation skills needed for becoming a writer



Developmental sequences and assessment processes



Instruction and intervention strategies and routines



Instructional Strategies

- Focus on : Preview rst.
- Handwriting and spenning development provide valuable instructional indicators for the next steps in their learning.

(Beringer, 2009; Moats, 2012)





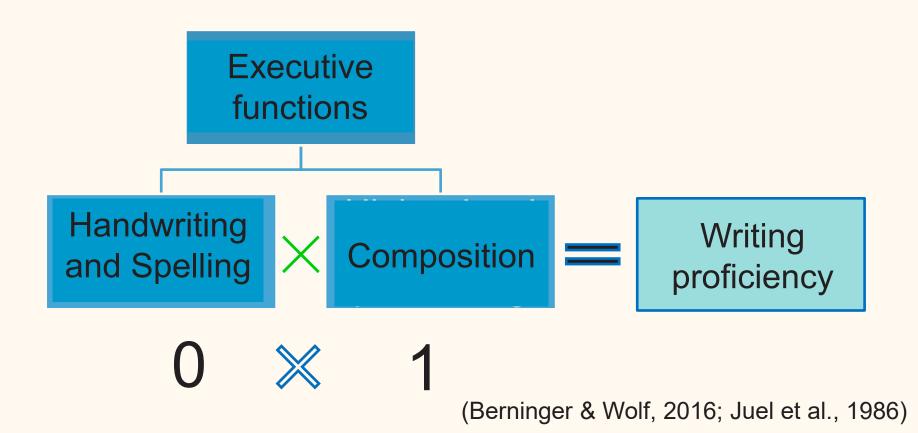
Critical Foundation Skills

In the big picture...

- Transcription skills
 - Handwriting
 - Spelling
- Composition skills
 - Words to sentences, paragraphs, and essays
 - Creating, organizing, elaborating ideas
 - Editing, revising, sharing
- Executive functioning skills



Simple View of Writing





Handwriting and Letter Learning

- 1. Handwriting (printing for young children) is important for letter understanding.
- 2. Children learn from their productions of a lot of different versions of the same letter.
- 3. For children who have difficulty printing letters, seeing and tracing letters is helpful for letter categorization.

(James 2017)





Why Handwriting Instruction

- Learning to form letters by hand improves letter learning and contributes to better reading and spelling.
- Letter writing trains the orthographic loop and serial organization, which supports spelling and composing.
- Automatic letter writing promotes better composing—both amount written and quality of writing.

(Berninger, 2012; Graham, Harris, & Fink, 2000; James, 2017; Truckenmiller & Chandler, 2023)



Spelling



- Explicit spelling instruction:
 - in the early grades is linked to better composition in the later grades. (Berninger & Fayol, 2008)
 - is linked to greater phonological awareness and reading proficiency (Santangelo & Graham, 2011)



Oral Language Skills

- Sentence structure Sounds form into words; words combine into sentences; sentences group into narratives and descriptions (paragraphs) and become more elaborated.
- Vocabulary one must be able to spontaneously recall words and have a clear understanding of word meaning and usage. (Corona, Spangenberger, & Venet, 1998)

"What you think, you can say. What you say, you can write."



Executive Functioning Skills

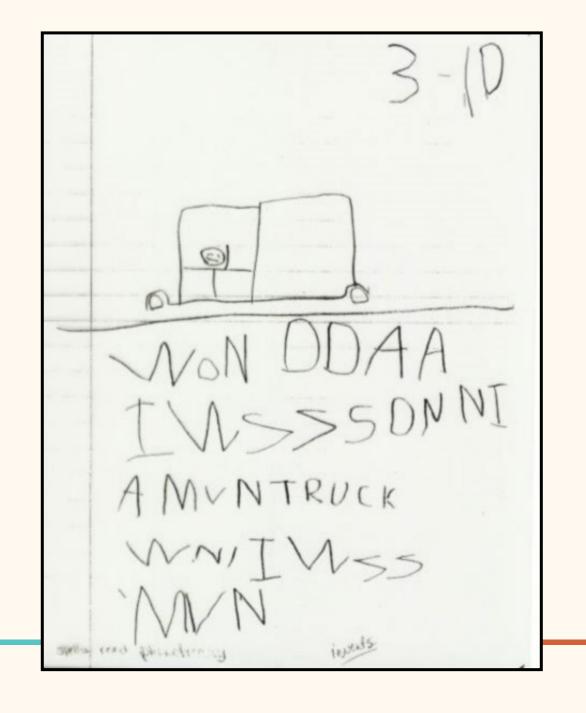
EF includes a wide range of skills such as self-regulation, focused attention, memory, inhibitory control, mental shifting during planning, reviewing, and revising. (Berninger & Winn, 2006)

✓ Explicit instructional cueing helps to develop self-regulation leading to other EF skills. (McCloskey & Perkins, 2012)



Kindergartener

One day
I was sitting in
a moving truck
when I was
moving.







TOPICS



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Developmental sequences and assessment strategies of writing skills

- Drawing foundations and motor development
- Word-reading and spelling development
- Composition development
- Grade level assessment task recommendations



Motor skills needed for writing

- Muscle strength to hold writing tool
- Fine motor control
- Kinesthetic awareness
- Rhythmic flow of movement
- Gated movement dragging hand across the page
- Directionality

(Graham & Weintraub, 1996)



Foundations of Drawing Development

Child learn to print letters by first imitating geometric shapes beginning

with: (Feder & Majnemer, 2007) vertical strokes 2 years • 2 ½ years horizontal strokes circles 3 years 4 years cross 5 years square

triangle



 $5 \frac{1}{2}$ years

Letter Shape Characteristics

- Straight il
- Curved Cc Jj Oo Ss U
- Straight Intersections E F H I L T †
- Curved Intersections B D G P Q a b d e f g h m n p q r u
- Diagonal Intersections A K M N R* V W X Y Z k v w x y z



Identify Pencil Grip

- Proper pencil grip should use a tripod grip.
 - Pencil should rest on first joint of middle finger with thumb and index finger holding pencil in place and held at a 45-degree angle to the page.
- Recommended pencils should be:
 - #2 lead which require less pressure to write and don't break as easily
 - No eraser (Berninger & Wolf, 2016)



How does this pencil grip look?



What kind of writing tools should be available?



Manuscript, then Cursive

- Focus on a single style of writing during a given school year.
- Focus on legibility in the first year of instruction.
- In the second year of instruction, focus on legibility and automaticity.
- Cursive should be introduced in third grade.
- Periodic tune-ups should review both styles.

(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)



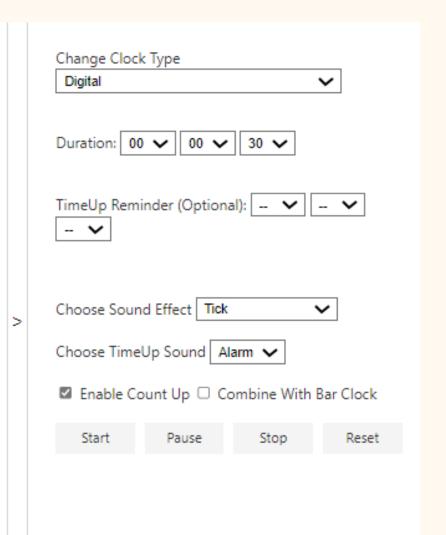
What is your automaticity?

- Take out a blank piece of paper and writing tool.
- Check your own pencil grip.
- When I say go, print the lowercase letters in a row from **a** to **z**.





00:00:00





How long did it take you?

Letter Writing Automaticity Guidelines

- Make sure to emphasize accuracy and legibility BEFORE fluency.
- 3rd graders should produce alphabet in less than a minute.
- Adults should fluently write the alphabet in 20 to 30 seconds.

(Berninger & Richards, 2002)



2

Developmental sequences and assessment strategies of writing skills

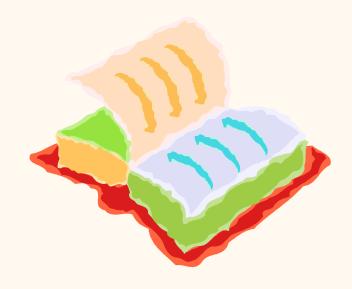
- Drawing foundations and motor development
- Word-reading and spelling development
- Composition development
- Grade level assessment task recommendations



Phases of Early Word-Reading and Spelling Development

- Prealphabetic
- incidental visual cues
- Partial Alphabetic
- letter knowledge
- partial phoneme awareness
- Full Alphabetic
- early sight-word learning
- phoneme-grapheme correspondence
- complete phoneme awareness
- Consolidated Alphabetic

(Ehri, 2014)





Developmental Phases and Levels for Writing

Prealphabetic

0. No distinction between drawing and writing

1. Pre-conventional

Scribble

Mock Letter

Random Letter Strings OMTCL

MMMM NACA

Partial alphabetic

Full alphabetic

Consolidated

2. Semi-phonetic

3. Phonetic

4. Conventional

YN DA

SPAS ROXIT

space rocket



Writing Assessment Tasks

(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)

Preschool Tasks:

- level of writing development (scribble to semiphonetic)
- own name writing
- letter name knowledge
- phonological awareness

• Kindergarten Tasks:

- level of writing development (random letters to phonetic)
- letter name and sound knowledge
- letter writing
- phonological awareness
- alphabetic principle in CVC word reading and spelling
- sentence writing



4-Year-Old

- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Composition

The lizard bited the snake.

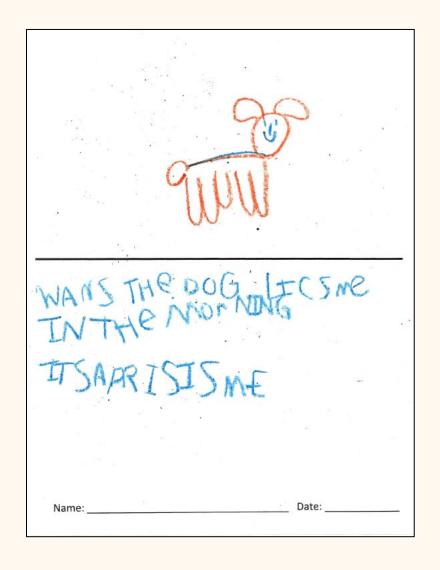




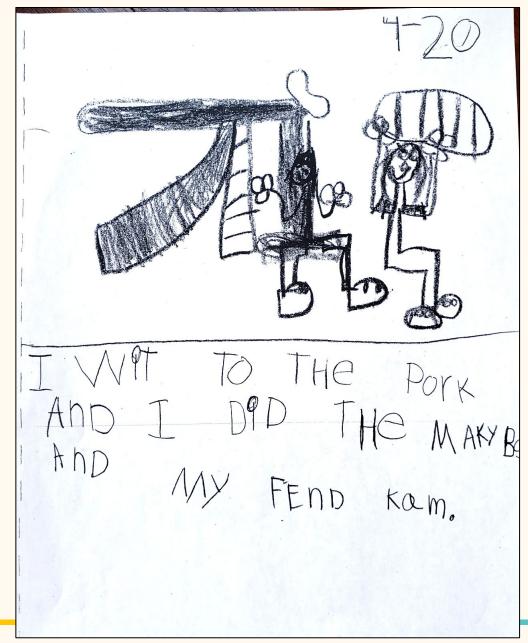
Pre-k 5-Year-Old

- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Composition

"Once the dog licks me in the morning. It surprises me."







Kinder

- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Composition

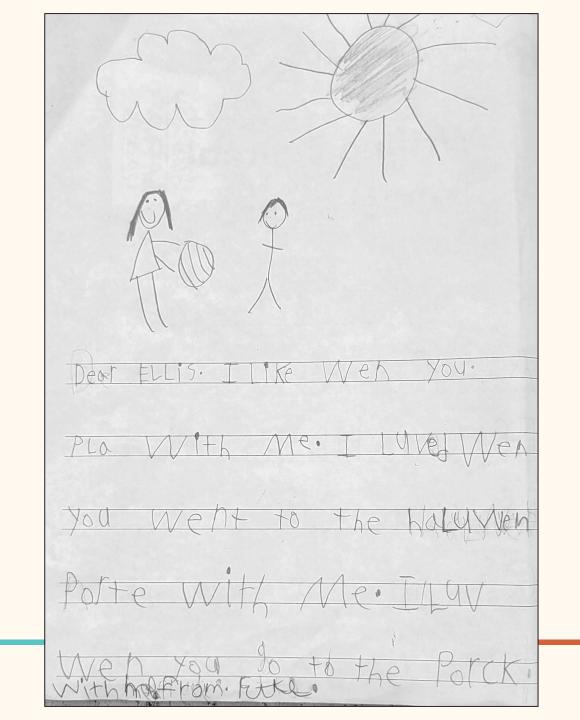
I went to the park and I did the monkey bars and my friend came.



(1st grader)

Dear Ellis, I like when you play with me. I loved when you went to the Halloween party with me. I love when you go to the park with me. From Etta

- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Composition



Writing Assessment Tasks

(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)

Primary Grade Tasks:

- automaticity and accuracy of alphabet letter writing
- accuracy and fluency of decoding and spelling of phonetic and high frequency words
- phonological awareness
- paragraph writing organization and content



Writing Assessment Tasks

(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)

Later Grade Tasks:

- automaticity and legibility of handwriting
- phonological awareness
- accuracy and fluency of word reading and spelling (phonological and morphological)
- paragraph writing
- essay writing
- keyboarding





TOPICS



Foundation skills needed for becoming a writer



Developmental sequences and assessment processes



Instruction and intervention strategies and routines



Instructional strategies to develop foundational writing skills

- Handwriting strategies
- Spelling strategies
- Composition strategies



Instructional Strategies

- Focus on student's content first.
- Handwriting and spelling development provide valuable instructional indicators for the next steps in their learning.

(Beringer, 2009; Moats, 2012)



Teaching a functional pencil grip:

- Have students place their pencil on the desk with the point towards them.
- Tell them to "pinch your pencil" with their index finger and thumb where the point begins.
- Then tell them to "lift your pencil." As they lift their pencils, it will fall back into the correct writing position and rest on the first joint of the middle finger.

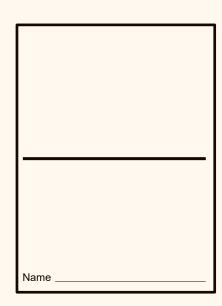
(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)

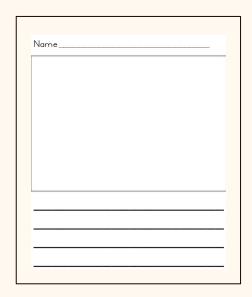




Paper Recommendations

Use paper that has space and lines appropriate for grade level.





- Preschool: paper with open space
- **Kindergarten Grade 1**: use paper with resting lines and top lines that are solid and divided lines midway between solid lines.
 - This spacing supports their learning of the relative positioning of letter strokes that often differentiate letters from each other.

(Berninger & Wolf, 2016)



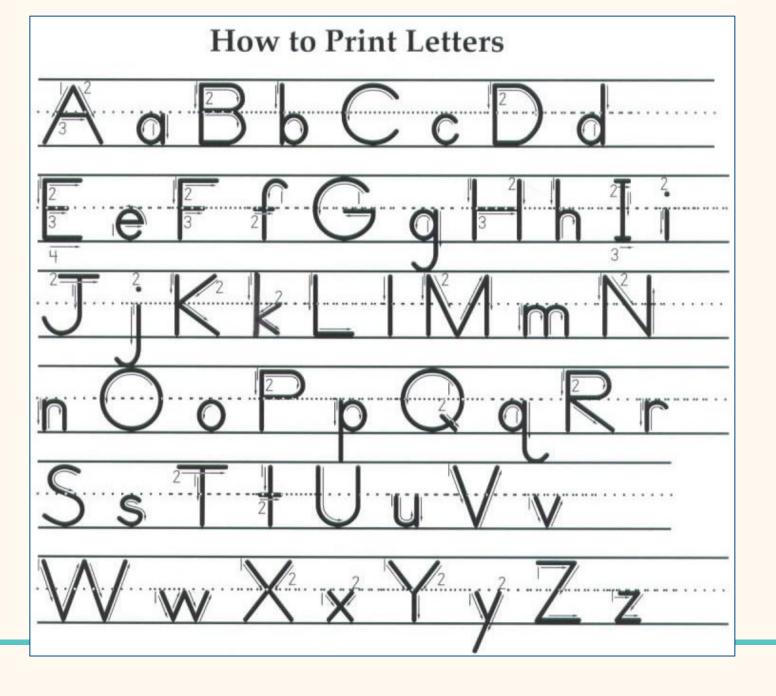
Letter Writing Instruction:

- Provide a visual plan with numbered arrow cues for forming the sequential strokes in each letter form;
- Include practice in tracing, copying letters, writing them from memory, and finding letters in the ordered alphabet series in long-term memory;
- Emphasize that letters should be both legible (recognized by others) and automatic (written effortlessly)

(Berninger, 2012, James, 2017)









End Goal of Handwriting Instruction

Develop "hybrid" writers:

- Manuscript writing transfers to word reading.
- Cursive writing transfers to spelling and composition.
- Keyboarding helps with producing multiple drafts and revisions especially after students progress beyond hunting and pecking to touch typing

Writers often use a mix of cursive and manuscript or revert to manuscript.



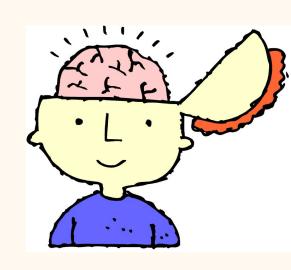
Instructional strategies to develop foundational writing skills

- Handwriting strategies
- Spelling strategies
- Composition strategies



Invented Spelling Connections:

- Spelling is often referred to as a "window into the literacy mind" of a student. (Apel, Masterson, & Niessen, 2004)
- By using student's invented spellings as a guide, teachers can differentiate efficient, effective instruction in phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. (Bear, Invernizzi, Templeton, & Johnston, 2004)





Invented Spelling Connections:

- Invented spellings are children's attempts to represent words in print, either spontaneously or self-directed. (Read, 1971)
- Children's invented spellings reflect their progression of phonological awareness, letter knowledge, and their understanding of print conventions.

(Bear & Templeton, 1998; Gentry & Gillet, 1993)



Research Findings on Invented Spelling in Kindergarten

- When teachers scaffolded children's invented spellings, kindergarten children gained stronger phonological awareness skills, better alphabet knowledge, and learned to read more words.
- Invented spelling practices did NOT interfere with correct spelling in subsequent grades.

(Martins & Silva, 2006; Ouellette & Sénéchal, 2008, Ouellette et al., 2013; Ouellette & Sénéchal, 2017).



Spelling is really "Word Study"

- Through active explorations, word study teaches students to examine words to discover the regularities, patterns, and conventions of English orthography needed to read and spell.
- Word study increases specific knowledge of words the spelling and meaning of individual words.



Word Study

- encoding and decoding of words

Written language is a skill that requires knowledge across several areas including:

- phonemic awareness
- morphological awareness
- semantic awareness
- orthographic awareness
- mental orthographic images



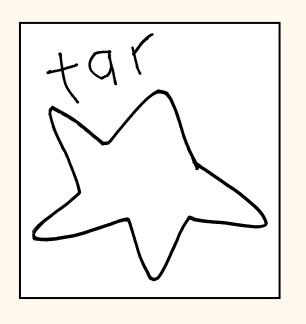
Word Study

- encoding and decoding of words

Written language is a skill that requires knowledge across several areas including:

phonemic awareness





Kindergartener

chunk

Chuk

dream



2nd Grader



Word Study

- encoding and decoding of words

Written language is a skill that requires knowledge across several areas including:

- phonemic awareness
- morphological awareness







1st grader: "It's hard for me to rememerize."



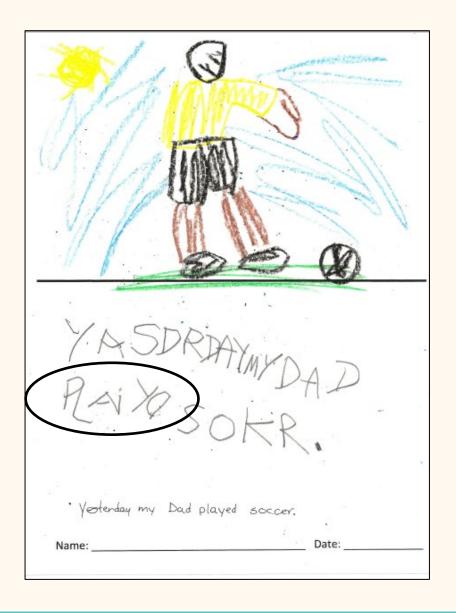
2nd grader: "Children who lost their parents sometimes live in an orphanarium."





Morphologic Awareness

Kindergartener





Word Study - encoding and decoding of words

Written language is a skill that requires knowledge across several areas including:

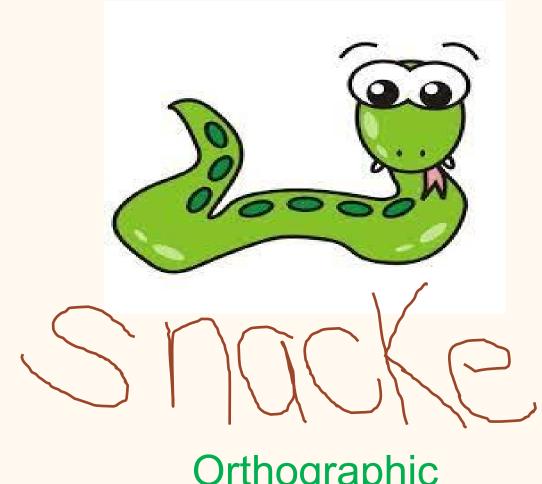
- phonemic awareness
- morphological awareness
- semantic awareness
- orthographic awareness
- mental orthographic images



Semantic Awareness

Theiyr're

Mental Orthographic Images



Orthographic Awareness



Spelling Instruction



- K- Grade 1 encoding (writing down letters that represent phonemes in words) and decoding (linking sounds to printed letters) should be practiced together in the beginning stages. (Moats & Hall, 2010)
 - Students should learn to read and spell the same words.
- Grade 2 and up encoding and decoding should be separate but reinforcing as spelling is much more difficult than reading. (Joshi, et al., 2008-2009)



Early Spelling Strategies



- Have an alphabet strip available to aid in uncertain recall.

Have students:

- Recite the alphabet orally or sing the alphabet song to automaticity.
- Name the letter before or after another letter or one in between two other letters.
- Copy the words in alphabetical order
- Practice alphabetizing



Write the following words in alphabetical order (the order they come in the alphabet)

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWX

pumpkin

log

river

fox

pond

. gelpp

2. Kmnppy

3. <u>olo</u>

4. EVYV

5. fox

5. anop

Sound Walls (Instead of Word Walls)

- Designed to teach letter-sound knowledge
- Set up according to the articulation of speech sounds
- Arranged moving from the front of your mouth to the back of the throat
- Attach phoneme (sound) to orthographic (spelling) patterns



(Dahlgren, 2017)



General Spelling Instruction Practices

- Use the same words for spelling and reading in K and Grade 1.
- Use frequent and distributed practice.
- Help students learn to analyze both speech and print.
- Use words in meaningful contexts.
- Teach proofreading and self-monitoring tasks.



Instructional strategies to develop foundational writing skills

- Handwriting strategies
- Spelling strategies
- Composition strategies



Writing Composition Skills

- Print conventions
 - > capitalization
 - > punctuation
 - grammar
 - spelling
- Language usage and style
- > Ideas and content
- Organization





"What I think, I can say."

Oral Language First

- Have students respond to questions using complete sentences.
- Have students practice combining short sentences into a longer, more complex sentence.
- Help students learn parts of speech (nouns, verbs, describing words).



Ask and Answer Questions about a Text



Narratives

Who are the characters? Who is the story about?

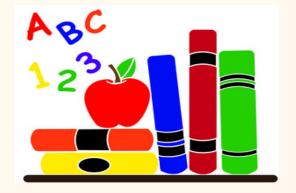
Have children answer in complete sentences.

- Where does the story take place? Where do the characters go?
- Why does the character do this? Why does the character feel this way?
- How would your retell the story? How would you describe the character? How does the character solve the problem?

(Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)



Ask and Answer Questions about a Text



Informational

- What is the topic of the text? What information did you learn?
- Who is involved?
- When did this happen? When would you use this information?
- Where did this happen? Where would you see this in the world?
- Why is this topic important? Why did this happen?
- How would your describe this to someone else?

(Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)



Creating Sentences:

Unscramble words to make a sentence

monsters I like clown I a saw

chew dogs bones eats bird a worms

the secret tell furry my is rabbit



Creating Sentences:

Combine shorter sentences into longer ones.

Easier to harder

Developmental Sequence of Conjunction Use:

- Sequence: and, both, then, when
- Causation: because, so
- Disjunction and Alternation: but, or, either/or, neither/nor, though
- Conditionality: unless, although, if, if/then, if only

(Moats, 2012)



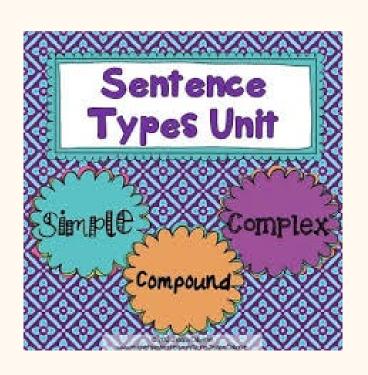
Creating Sentences:

Combine shorter sentences into longer ones.

- The boy was thirsty.
- The boy drank lemonade.

- The weather was perfect.
- The girls were playing soccer.

and, both, when, because, so





Katahira Teaching Method

1. Teacher models idea generation.

"Today I will write about something I want to do."

- I want to climb a tree.
- 2. Then model translating strategy: "What I Think I Can Say,

What I Can Say, I Can Write."

- Say the thought out loud again one word at a time.
 - I want to climb a tree.



Katahira Teaching Method

- 3. Model the transcription process for each word by saying the word, phoneme by phoneme.
 - Ask the children to help find a letter to spell the sound using a letter strip.
 - As children suggest letters, write them, spelling each word in the thought.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm

Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



Katahira Teaching Method

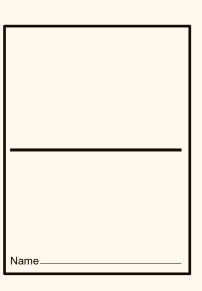
- 4. Then, children practice the strategy, first thinking out loud, then saying each word one at a time, sounding it out, and spelling each sound in it.
 - They illustrate their story.
 - After children draw and write, they read what they wrote to another child in the class.
 - During the year they can revised their favorite stories, illustrate them, and at the end of the school year, publish a book of their writing and art work.



Picture Story/Word Story

- A technique that can be used to engage young children in writing by demonstrating for them the developmental levels of writing.
- This approach helps children feel comfortable writing at their own level and helps them move onto the next level.

(Paulson, et al., 2001)





"Picture Story/Word Story"





Writing Paragraphs

Three-Sentence Paragraph

Topic title

Beginning sentence

Two important ideas

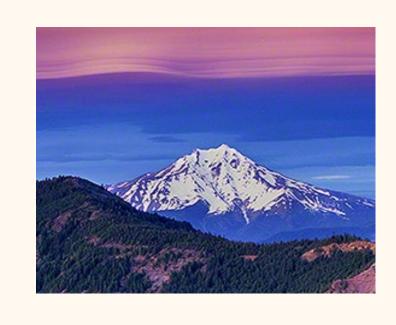
Volcano

Volcanos are cone-shaped mountains.

Volcanos can erupt with ash and lava. They are stunning in the landscape.

(Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)





Writing Information Paragraphs

One-Paragraph Structure

- Topic sentence
- Key idea
- Examples, explanations, events, experiences
- Concluding sentence

(Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)



Information Writing

Longer Paragraph Structure

- 1. Topic sentence
- 2. Key idea
 - Examples, explanations, events, experiences
- 3. Key idea
 - Examples, explanations, events, experiences
- 4. Concluding sentence



(Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)



Evaluating Writing Progress

- Use rubrics with components:
 - Organization
 - Content
 - Language
 - Print Conventions
- Students check writing for revision process.
- Teachers measure student progress and instructional needs.

(Adapted from Step Up To Writing, Grades K-2 Auman, 2016)





Writing Rubric Components

- 1. Organization: beginning, events, conclusion
- 2. Content: level of details
- 3. Language: sentence completeness
- 4. Print Conventions:
 - a. Handwriting
 - b. Capitals
 - c. Punctuation
 - d. Spelling

- -Below basic
- -Basic
- Proficient



Rubric Ideas for Students

- My story has an order.
- My story has a message.
- I added details.
- I used capitals.
- My letters are legible.
- I used punctuation.
- I spelled my words correctly.





TOPICS



Foundation skills needed for becoming a writer



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Instruction and intervention strategies and routines



Take-Home Points



- Writing is a critical skill for all children.
- Handwriting and spelling facilitate composition skills.
- Early intervention is a key to reducing the impact of oral/written language disorders like dyslexia and dysgraphia.
- Explicit instruction, at all levels, is a proven, evidence-based approach for teaching writing.



What You'll Learn

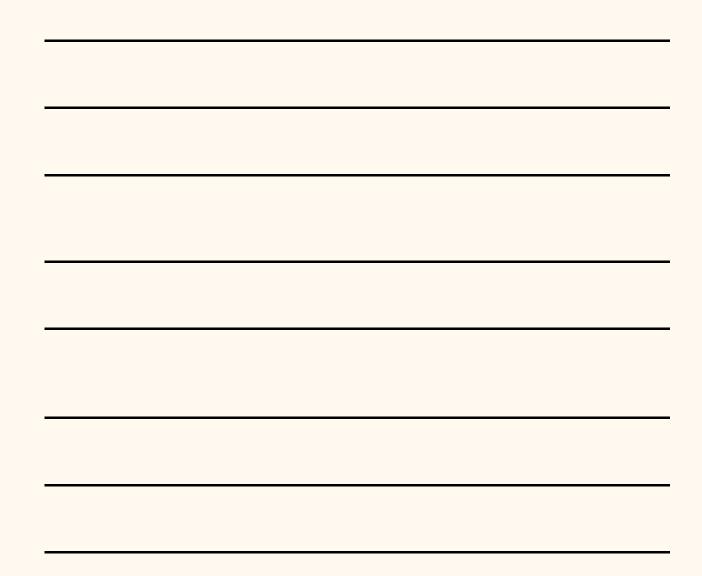
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- How to implement research-based instruction techniques to facilitate writing as well as enhance other language and literacy skills



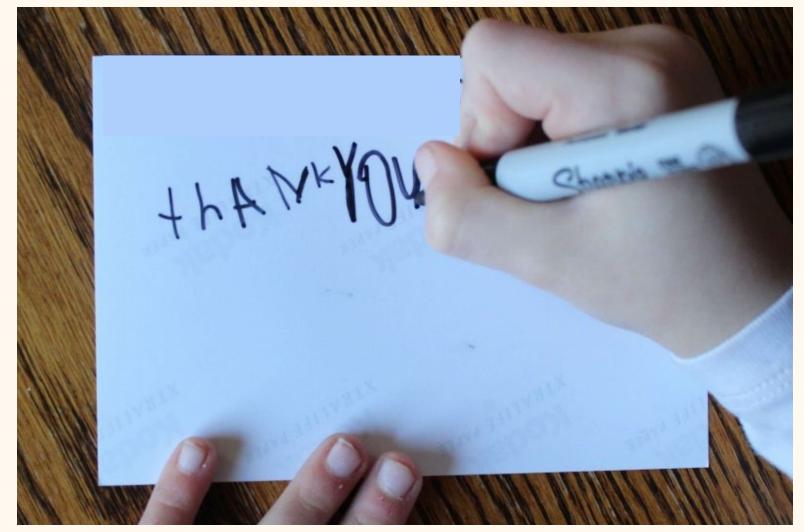
What squared up?











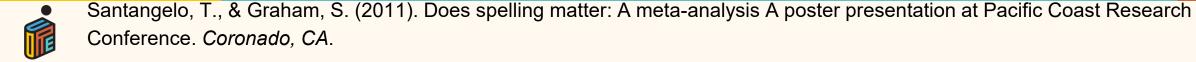
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