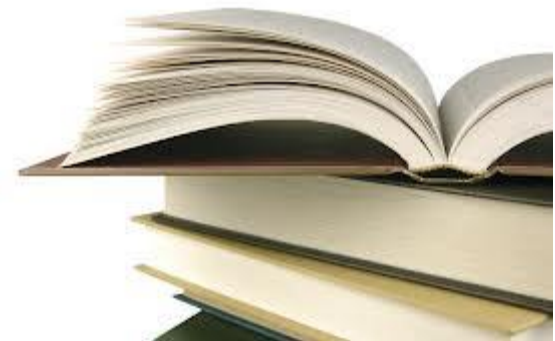


READING INTO WRITING FOR PLEASURE AND PROGRESS AT CLEVELAND ROAD PRIMARY

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THE AIM OF TODAY'S WORKSHOP

- To develop an understanding of why we read and why we write
- To explain the relationship between reading and writing
- Look at factors which help children to read and write successfully
- To give you ideas about how you can help your child at home

**IF
YOU
CAN READ
THIS EASILY
YOU ARE BETTER
OFF THAN 40% OF THE
UK'S POOREST CHILDREN, WHO LEAVE
PRIMARY SCHOOL UNABLE TO READ WELL**



Save the Children

LOVING BOOKS

Would you recommend this book to a friend and why?

No, it is my favourite and I don't
want anyone else to have it.

Question:

How much do you encourage your child to LOVE books?

READING FOR UNDERSTANDING

When we read books in school, we aim to build children's knowledge and understanding of the story and the characters. This can be done using a range of strategies and activities including:

- ❖ Speaking and Listening, including discussions about the text
- ❖ Reading aloud
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Reading
- ❖ Writing

REASONS FOR WRITING

The main purposes for writing are:

- To entertain
- To inform
- To persuade
- To discuss

Once children understand WHY they are writing, they can make informed choices about their **words**, **sentences** and **punctuation**.
Should I use first person? Am I writing in the past tense?

These choices (informed by reading!) help the children to write WHAT they want to express, in the WAY they want to convey it. The more children understand the intention behind their writing, the better the impact on the reader.

THE LINK BETWEEN READING AND WRITING

Writing can be a great way to help children think about what they are reading. For example:

- ❖ Who is your hero? What makes that person so special?
- ❖ Have you ever been lost?
- ❖ If you were Macbeth, what would you do next?
- ❖ What advice would you give to Edmund – should he lead the other children to the Snow Queen?

Starting from their own experiences, these writing opportunities can help children to: relate their experiences to those within the text; empathise with the characters; and consider the different issues and BIG QUESTIONS that arise from the text. The WAY the author has written (choice of word, sentence, punctuation) influences how the reader reads and interprets the text.

WRITING FOR A PURPOSE

Once the children have explored the text (or part of the text) in detail, writing tasks give them an opportunity to use their knowledge and understanding in a range of forms. The best writing tasks are **relevant** and **purposeful** with an audience in mind.

- ❖ Write a diary account from Earnest Shackleton's point of view
- ❖ Write a letter from Zach to his parents (*Goodnight Mister Tom*)
- ❖ Write an alternative ending to the story

Children need to understand WHY they are writing and select an appropriate form. Writing should feel authentic and real.

THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME



1. DEVELOP A CLIMATE OF WORDS AT HOME

The basis of good writing is good TALK – children develop stronger control of language when engaged in quality, rich talk about experiences

➤ *Explore, see and do with your child*



➤ *Visit interesting places and talk about them in as much detail as possible*

➤ *Engage the senses – sight, smell, sound, taste, touch*

2. BE A WRITING MODEL FOR YOUR CHILD

Your are a model and teacher for your child. If children never see adults writing, they may assume it only happens in school.

- *Write notes, letters, postcards to friends, shopping lists*
- *Write letters to businesses or stories to share with your child*
- *Share your writing by reading it out loud; make changes and improvements to show that editing and revising are a part of writing*

3. PROVIDE A SUITABLE PLACE FOR WRITING

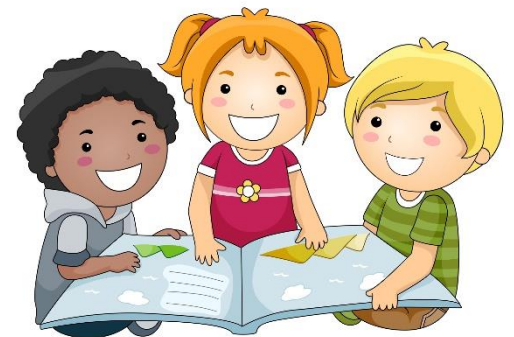
To write well, we need time and space, preferably free from distraction

- *Set up a quiet place for writing, in your home, without the distractions of TV, games, people talking*
- *Make sure your child has a flat space with elbow room*
- *Provide a comfortable chair and good light*

4. PROVIDE WRITING GIFTS

Give your child (and encourage others to give your child) gifts associated with writing

- *Varied pens and pencils (including pencils of assorted hardness); stationery supplies such as paper, envelopes, stamps*
- *A diary or journal; scrapbooks, notebooks, recipe books; chalk, paint, sand and water*
- *A dictionary or thesaurus*



5. BE SUPPORTIVE



Patience, help and support are the most valuable things you can give:

- *Talk through ideas to help them think about what they want to “say”*
- *Help with spelling and punctuation including how to use a dictionary or thesaurus*
- *Praise effort and provide positive suggestions without being critical*

6. ENCOURAGE FREQUENT WRITING

The need or wish to write can vary in a child, but you should encourage them to write frequently to develop a writing habit

- *Be patient when your child is reluctant*
- *Avoid the tendency to focus on errors of spelling and punctuation – instead, encourage your child to edit*
- *Emphasise successes – what has your child done well?*

7. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITING

Provide real-life purposes for writing, frequently.

- *Encourage friends and relatives to write to your child – writing is rewarding when you get a reply!*
- *Encourage the writing of thank-you notes when your child gets a gift*
- *Look for other writing opportunities – a note in a birthday card, a postcard from your holiday destination, a shopping list, holiday list*

8. PLAY WORD GAMES

Make learning fun and gaming-playing a part of family time; games that encourage the use of words (including the spoken word) develop language

- *Scrabble*
- *Guess who?*
- *Boggle*
- *Bananagrams*
- *Articulate*
- *I Spy*
- *Hangman*



9. OTHER WRITING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

- *Create a family recipe book*
- *Create a project about an interest (Dr Who, SpiderMan etc...)*
- *BBC 500 Words competition*
- *Visit useful websites:*
 - *Education City*
 - *Britannica Research*
 - *Espresso*
 - *Pobble 365*
- *Visit the school website for great resources and links*