

Interactive Writing
Teachers and students collaboratively develop text while “sharing the pen.”

Interactive Writing is performed daily in Kindergarten and as needed in Grades 1 and 2 (any content area).

Interactive Writing

- Involves all curriculum areas
- Connects reading and writing
- Provides a way to show students what writing is all about
- Allows students to see themselves as writers
- Benefits students as they work alongside a supportive teacher
- Exposes students to concepts of print
- Provides practice in hearing sounds in words
- Involves all students
- Connects sounds with letters
- Permits shared ownership over the content and the process
- Builds confidence in students' reading and writing abilities
- Provides a bridge between oral and written language
- Focuses students' attention on the details of print

Teacher's Role

- Decides on target group (whole class or small group)
- Models and demonstrates the writing process with students
- Establishes a low-risk environment as approximations are praised
- Involves all students in the lesson
- Shares the pen with students (encouraging them to contribute when they can)
- Composes the story with the help of the students
- Shares “think alouds” when demonstrating the process
- Writes using various formats and genres
- Observes student behaviors and responses

Students' Role

- Participate actively in the story and experience

- Identify letter sounds and words and contributes these to the story when possible
- Demonstrate prior knowledge with the topic of the story
- Take risks during the lesson
- Reread the text with the support of the teacher
- Locate specific information within the text (Ex. capital letters, punctuation, etc.)

Resources

- Unlined or lined chart paper
- Markers
- Correction Tape
- Pointer
- Word Wall
- Environmental Print
- Individual dry erase boards and dry erase markers
- ABC Chart

Procedures

- Children will be seated on the floor in a group
- Teacher begins discussion from a previous story or experience (or this could also be the Morning Message)
- Students give ideas and suggestions about ways to begin the story
- Sentences are restated several times
- Students are called on to supply letters or words
- High frequency words are emphasized
- Teaching points are made throughout the construction of the story
- The text is reread, modeling fluency
- Display the work

*If constructing a story, it could take several days to complete.

Assessment of Interactive Writing

- Teacher Observation (Concepts About Print, hearing sounds, known words, punctuation, use of environmental print, word wall, and ABC chart)