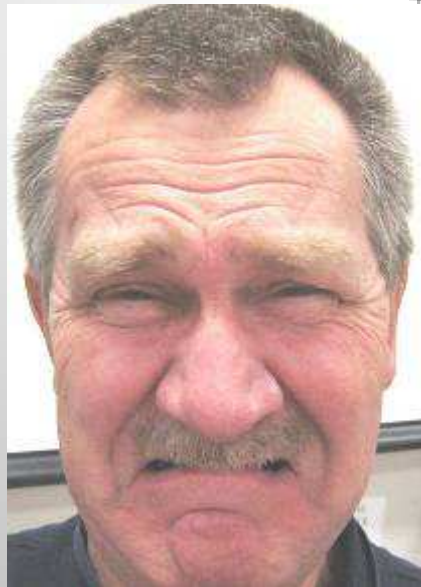


# HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S WRITING



# How Do You Feel About Writing?

Is this you?



Why?

Or is this you?



Spelling

Punctuation

## Elements of Writing

Handwriting

Composition

Spelling

Handwriting

## Barriers to Writing

Composition –  
getting ideas

Low Self-  
Esteem

# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?

## SPELLING

- Share weekly spellings
- Discuss the sound, letter pattern or rule used in the list
- Practise writing out spellings using our joined handwriting style



# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?



## HANDWRITING

- Know the school's handwriting model
- Prompt your child to use the school's handwriting model at home
- Do a little handwriting practice



# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?

## PUNCTUATION

- Ask your child to proof-read their homework
- Check your child's writing and point out any missing punctuation





# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?



## COMPOSITION

- Interact with your child
- Take time to talk and reflect on experiences
- Go on visits
- Share a wide range of books / texts
- Share stories

# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?



## COMPOSITION

- Use real purposes for writing
- Let your child see that you value writing

For what reasons could your child do some writing at home?

# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?

## Low Self - Esteem

- Praise all your child's real attempts at writing
- Use your child's ideas when composing with your child
- Tell your child your own/others' 'struggles' with writing
- Show understanding



# How Do We Teach Writing At School?

## Reading

- Sharing and enjoying texts together as a class

## Talking

- Generating ideas (from text, picture, drama, etc)
- Sharing our thoughts about a text
- Identifying key characteristics of the text type, vocabulary, grammar, etc.

## Modelling Writing

- Teacher models writing, externalising the composition process: generating ideas, selecting 'best' ideas, organising and putting them on the page

# How Do We Teach Writing At School?

## Shared Writing

- Teacher scribes whilst the class contributes to the collection of ideas, words, phrases or how ideas go down onto paper

## Guided Writing

- In small groups or pairs, children compose, edit, improve or reflect upon writing (usually linked to a child's writing target)

## Paired / Independent Writing

- Using the skills and ideas already shared, children produce a piece of writing, proof read, edit and improve their work

# How Do We Teach Writing At School?

Reading  
Children's  
work and  
Sharing  
Writing

- The children's work is shared, celebrated and discussed.
- It may be photocopied or scanned into the computer and put on the interactive whiteboard

# Assessing Writing At School

## Writing Assessment Guidelines:

- **AF1** Write imaginative, interesting and thoughtful texts
- **AF2** Produce texts that are appropriate to task, reader and purpose
- **AF3** Organise and present whole texts effectively, sequencing and structuring information, ideas and events
- **AF4** Construct paragraphs and use cohesion within and between paragraphs
- **AF5** Vary sentences for clarity, purpose and effect
- **AF6** Write with technical accuracy of syntax and punctuation in phrases, clauses and sentences
- **AF7** Select appropriate and effective vocabulary
- **AF8** Use correct spelling



# Setting Targets

Selected pieces from children's work are scrutinised using these criteria; strengths are highlighted and targets are set.



# What Can You Do to Help Your Child?

- Know your child's targets in order to provide extra focused support at home
- Discuss the task and ideas before preparing to write. It can also help to 'sleep on it' - after a talk about the expected task and the sharing of ideas. Wait until the next day to put pen to paper.
- Stress the importance of rereading during composition to check for flow of ideas. Proof—reading their work **aloud** will enable them to hear whether the writing flows well and whether any words have been omitted, for example.
- Coming back to a piece of writing the following day can also help a child to freshly identify ways in which to improve their work.
- Ask your child whether they think that they have met their target in this piece of work. Do you agree?
- Celebrate the writing and give lots of praise!

# REMEMBER TO PRAISE YOUR CHILD ...

EVEN FAMOUS WRITERS HAVE TO WORK  
HARD TO PLAN, DRAFT, WRITE, EDIT AND  
REVISE THEIR WRITING!

