

Kindergarten Writing Unit 1- Launch

Welcome to Kindergarten writing! During the Writing Launch unit we introduce children to the structures and expectations of writing so they can understand the purpose and build independence early on. Writers are taught to approach writing through multiple means – drawing, labeling and oral expression. Each child will travel through this developmental journey at his/her own pace. Most importantly, we teach kindergarten writers that everyone is a writer and that telling oral stories is where all writers begin.

Skills and Strategies Taught:

- Writers think of a topic for writing that they care about.
- Writers use drawing and labels as an important tool for telling stories.
- Writers stretch out the sounds we hear to write words the best they can.
- Writers tell stories out loud to help plan and organize.
- Writers tell the whole story by writing across pages.

Ways to support your child at home:

- Help your child to develop his/her understanding of the sound and symbol relationship – children should recognize each letter of the alphabet and the sound each letter makes.
- Have detailed conversations with your child about the people, places and activities they care about and feel are important.
- Provide paper or notebooks, pens and a writing spot to encourage writing.
- Encourage your child to write lists of things around the home, i.e. lists of groceries, toys, etc.
- Allow your child to write the sounds he/she hears when writing a word (phonetic spelling). You might see the first sound, first and last sound, or an entire written word.
- When reading with your child, have conversations about the parts of the story that are told through the pictures. For example, “I notice that the character’s face looks very surprised!” This reminds children that they can add important details in the pictures they draw.

We all have stories, and we are all writers!