



The Kindergarten Chronicles

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Welcome to Kindergarten 2007-2008!

Whew! You survived the first month of kindergarten. I hope you have rewarded yourselves with many chocolate chip cookies, long soaks in the bath, and a great movie. Congratulations!

Now you look down the long road ahead with your new group. It wasn't too long ago, way back in June or August, when you were at the end of your journey. You had a class that could write their names, listen attentively, understand rules and consequences, and read! Starting over can feel overwhelming, but watching young children uncover the excitement and joy in becoming literate makes it all worth it.

Interactive Writing is a technique you can use to immerse your students in literacy. Using the Interactive Writing approach not only teaches students the necessary skills to become readers and writers, but also provides the opportunity to build a community of learners as you begin the year. "Interactive writing supports young writers as

they learn how to communicate their discoveries" (Fountas, McCarrier, Pinnell).

What is Interactive Writing? Interactive Writing is an approach where the teacher and children collaborate to write a text together, using a "shared pen" technique that involves children in the writing. The teacher has most of the responsibility as she acts as a scribe. The children are invited to write the parts that they know while the teacher fills in the unknown. In a large or small group, the teacher uses chart paper or a white board, markers, and post-it tape to guide children as they discover the connections between listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Why do Interactive Writing? The purpose of Interactive Writing is to demonstrate how writing works by showing children that their ideas can be recorded on paper and that they can participate in that recording process (writing). Many teach-

ers have found it beneficial to use the following dialogue as introduction to their Interactive Writing lessons, "If I can think it, I can say it. If I can say it, I can write it. If I can write it, I can read it!" In addition, Interactive Writing provides opportunities for children to develop concepts about print, the alphabetic principle, and the conventions of writing. With any Interactive Writing experience, the children are more likely to remember the reading/ writing concepts demonstrated when the context is meaningful. Connect the text to the classroom context. Link the Interactive Writing activity to a classroom activity, book, object, or experience.

Uses for Interactive Writing:

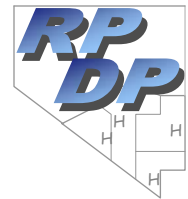
- Labeling the classroom
- Headings and labels for bulletin boards
- Classroom charts (rules, word families, math concepts, etc.)
- Pocket charts



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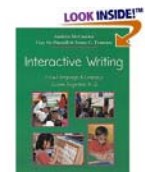


Bill Hanlon, Director
www.rpdp.net

Food For Thought:

"The only source of knowledge is experience."
-Albert Einstein

Professional Resources for Interactive Writing



Interactive Writing: How Language & Literacy Come Together, K-2



Interactive Writing: Students and Teachers "Sharing the Pen" to Create Meaningful Text

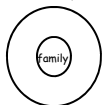
Curriculum Corner

The "Buzz" Book:

by The K - Crew

Step 1: Begin with a "message skeleton". You can follow a predictable pattern, but something should be missing or incorrect. Below is an example.

Good morning! Today is _____ day,
 _____ 29, 200____.
 Let's write some words
 that go with **family**.



Step 2: The "buzz" - Students tell each other their ideas before sharing with the group.

Step 3: Share! A few students share with the group. This should only last about 3-5 minutes, so not every student will have time to share with the group.

Step 4: Write! Both teacher and students may share the marker to write group ideas.

Step 5: Reread and discuss! Use this time to correct any mistakes, teach mini-lessons, and develop vocabulary.

Sample "Buzz Book" topics:
What did you eat for breakfast?
How old are you?

What is your favorite color?

Name some green things.

To find out more, visit www.thekcrew.net.

Interested in learning about literacy centers? *Literacy Centers for K-1 Classrooms* is being offered December 1st and 8th at Givens ES. Please register on Pathlore. Receive one graduate credit, valuable information, and free materials!