



Revision and Editing Process

What is it?

When children show evidence that they are monitoring, and applying problem-solving strategies to the reading process, it is time to direct their attention to similar processes during small group assisted writing. The teacher demonstrates the revising and editing during modeled writing-aloud events. As the children become more competent writers, the teacher selects journal samples and uses these texts to engage children in editing and revising strategies. To promote checking, searching, and self-correcting behaviors, the teacher asks editing questions such as...

- Do you see anything misspelled?
- What about our punctuation?
- What do you notice about this word? Where can we go to check it to see if it is right?

And the teacher asks revision questions such as...

- How could we say this differently?
- Could we add some details to make it more interesting?
- Do you think it will make sense when other people read it?
- Does this sentence sound right to you?
- Is there a better word choice that would fit here? What could we use to find a better word?

During the revision and editing process the teacher demonstrates techniques such as circling misspelled words, inserting words, marking out unnecessary language, adding new sentences, rearranging order, and so on. Transparencies of children's journal pages are made and use to illustrate the writing process. The goal is that children will begin to apply these techniques in their independent journal writing.

Why should I use it?

When the teacher models and engages children in the revision and editing process, children learn techniques and strategies for checking on their own writing. The children develop an understanding of the need to communicate a meaningful message through clear, concise and conventional language. During the revision and editing process, the teacher provides children with opportunities to learn how to:

- Check the conventions of punctuation and grammar in context
- Apply spelling strategies in context
- Evaluate predictable, logical ways of starting, expanding, and ending various forms of writing.
- Apply devices for revising a text (e.g., insertions, arrows, circling)
- Use interesting language
- Use different genres and forms of writing
- Proofread writing for an audience