



Writing Aloud

What is it?

Writing aloud is a shared experience between the teacher and the children. The teacher thinks-aloud as she demonstrates the composing process and applies problem-solving strategies for working on words within the text.

Through clear demonstrations and active participation, the children learn what writers do, and they use this knowledge in independent journal writing activities.

When should I begin Writing Aloud?

Writing aloud should be taught when children begin the early stages of reading and writing.

Why should I use it?

From a Vygotskian perspective, the teacher uses language to describe the writing process. Through teacher demonstrations and active engagements, the children acquire important knowledge for constructing and monitoring their independent writing. The purposes of the teacher's writing aloud include:

- To demonstrate the composing process with an emphasis on building a meaningful message for a particular audience.
- To demonstrate rereading strategies for checking, clarifying, and extending meaning.
- To model how to do written retellings that include all important elements and expressive dialogues for recording an interesting story.
- To demonstrate how to use figurative language in written compositions.

- To model various strategies for problem-solving on words within text.
- To encourage the close examination of varied genres and forms of writing.
- To demonstrate the importance of varied punctuation in creating expressive messages.
- To demonstrate how to use resources for editing and revising the story (e.g., writer's checklist, dictionaries, thesaurus, etc.).
- To reinforce and support the reading process.
- To engage children in an enjoyable and meaningful writing experience

The elements of Writing Aloud include:

- The teacher models how to compose a story through ongoing “think aloud” conversations with the children.
- The text is a negotiated experience between the teacher and children, with the teacher skillfully guiding and composing process.
- The teacher is the primary scribe with the children contributing at selective points.
- The teacher emphasizes the importance of constructing a meaningful and well-organized story.
- The teacher uses a meaningful context to demonstrate how to problem-solve on the run throughout the writing.
- The writing of a single text may occur over several days.
- The text can be rewritten by the teacher and published into a class book.