

Beginning Writing Skills

Bring Out the Writer in Every Child

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Beginning Writers – Off to a Great Start

Get beginning writers in your class off to a great start! Make sure you provide a variety of writing opportunities. Share your enthusiasm for writing, and you'll find a room filled with excited students who are motivated to become good writers!



Encourage your beginning writers by

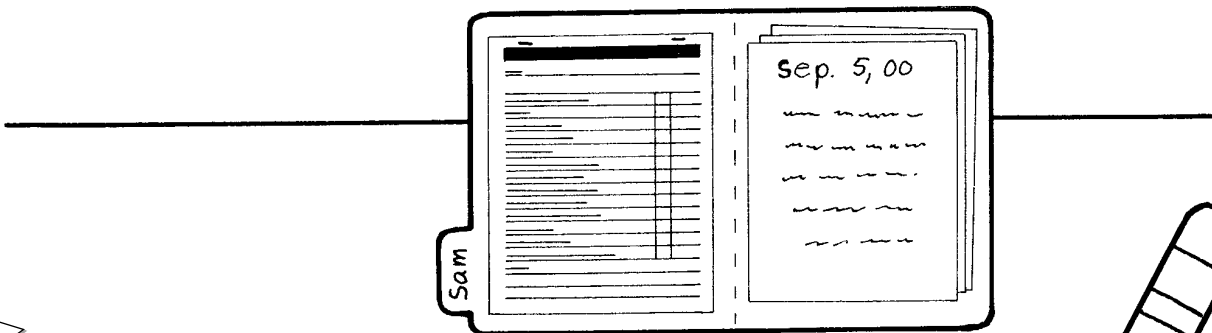
- including whole-class writing activities along with small-group writing activities
- offering children opportunities to work individually
- providing writing activities for pairs of students
- regularly scheduling daily blocks of time for writing
- planning plenty of time for beginning writers to share their writing and receive feedback from their peers
- teaching word skills and spelling within the context of writing
- using writing throughout all areas of the curriculum
- modeling writing for your students on a daily basis
- demonstrating how writing is used for a purpose
- providing writing experiences that are grounded in authentic context and come from a genuine purpose
- showing students how writing develops through revision and editing

Beginning Writers—Off to a Great Start



Recording the Progress of Your Beginning Writers

Make writing progress folders for students in your class. Keep track of your students' writing progress by using the Checklist for Beginning Writers on page 3. Staple a copy of the checklist inside each folder. Each month save a sample of each child's writing. Make sure that the date is on each piece of writing before it's placed in the folder. Look through the writing folders every other month and update the Checklist for Beginning Writers. Writing progress folders are handy to refer to during parent conferences and when completing report cards.



Keep It Positive!

Children learn best in an environment where they feel safe to make mistakes as they learn new skills. Help your beginning writers excel by making writing a fun, positive experience! Be careful **not** to discourage beginning writers in these ways:

- requiring perfect grammar and spelling in all written work
- assigning topics for writing chosen exclusively by you
- insisting that all writing be recopied in perfect handwriting



Involve Parents

Encourage parent support by signing, reproducing, and sending home the Easy At-Home Writing Activities parent letters on pages 4 and 5. Most parents are eager to help at home and appreciate it when they are given specific activities to enhance their children's learning.

