

The Optimum Writing-to-Read Kindergarten Includes:

- **One consistent multisensory ABC and phonics immersion program** that incorporates music, fingerspelling, and American Sign Language and involves "parents as partners." A copy of the *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* home wall chart and CD by Nellie Edge is given to each family. (Instructional video is a free download at www.sign2me.com)
- **Kindergarten-friendly handwriting, beginning with the name ticket.** We have high expectations and take advantage of how the brain learns best!
- **Modeled writing such as morning message,** in which the teacher demonstrates the conventions of print.
- **Interactive writing:** teacher and children "share the pen."
- **Daily drawing and kid writing that includes adult underwriting** and opportunities for the child to read their writing and the adult writing. **Children draw and draw, adding more and more details.** Learning to add details transfers to their writing.
- **Systematic activities to build fluency writing and reading high-frequency ("by heart" or "star") words.** (*I, love, Mom, Dad, you, can, see, the, etc.*)
- **Word study** using interactive word walls, auditory spelling techniques, American Sign Language, self-correcting phonics manipulatives, word matching, and sentence building.
- **Writing workshop opportunities where children happily tell stories and make their own clever books.** They become authors and illustrators of real books:
——— *I Have a Dog* by C.J. *My Birds Book* by Marissa *Once Upon a Time*
by Clinton
- **Differentiated literacy centers** where children use their writing for creative and "real-world" purposes: making cards for friends, writing letters and thank-you notes, grocery lists, etc.
- **Stamping and/or writing** high-frequency word patterns repeatedly to build fluency with sentences. Children often use: *I love my... I see a... This is the... I can... I like to...*
- **Publishing class books based on familiar song and language patterns.**
- **Publishing** (with pride) individual books from children's "kid writing" or special studies.
- **Use of functional print:** Class signs, photo/name charts, class schedules.
- **Literature and Science observation logs and authoring individual books to culminate a study.** (*My Rock Study, My Moon Book, My Bird Study...*)
- **Literacy-rich dramatic play centers:** grocery stores, restaurants, veterinarian offices, and space stations provide invitations to write.



"...no matter what, let them write every day" ~ Katie Wood Ray

from *About Our Authors: Writing Workshop With Our Youngest Writers*.