

# Do You Want to Dramatically Accelerate Your Kindergarten Writing Proficiency?

Fluency with "heart word" sentences is your key!

## Automaticity with "Heart Word" Sentences: Self-Assessment Guidelines

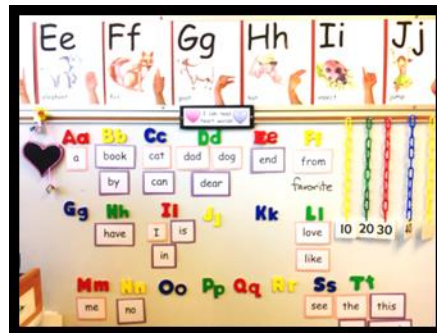


Children view learning targets: Wall posters of high-frequency "heart words"

### We Have High Expectations and Give Students Crystal Clear Learning Targets

- Children learn there are two kinds of words: Words they know "by heart" and words they listen to, stretch out, and write the sounds for.
- The end goal is to be a "heart word expert" with at least 62 words and to fearlessly tackle any unknown word in their writing. (More proficient students may add additional sets of personal favorite words or mandated school district words lists.) There is no ceiling on success-driven learning!
- Children and their families have a crystal-clear target of what their current 15 to 16 words are.
- Teach for mastery: We can read and write "heart words!"

### We Provide Multisensory, Memorable Teaching and Learning, and Make Learning Visible

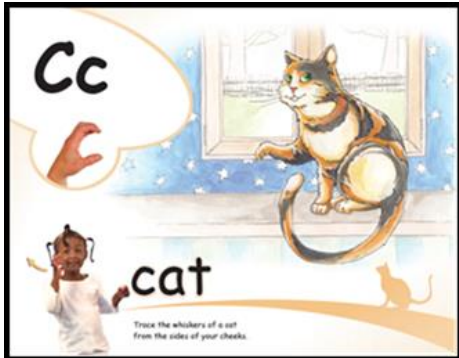


- The word "love" is our anchor word. The "heart word" sentence "I love you" is practiced for mastery. ALL children need to see themselves as readers and writers of words that matter.
- A-Z high-frequency Word Wall is high and visible from front or side of the room.

- Children connect the high-frequency "heart words" "cat" and "dog" with the pages of their *ABC Phonics: Sing, Sign, and Read!* book.

## We Use Fingerspelling to Help Children Develop Fluency with "Heart Words" and CVC Words

- We use signing and fingerspelling to learn 32 words.
- We refer back to the key phonics symbol as needed to build the reading brain.



- Children know where to go for environmental print supports (ABC Phonics charts, "heart word" posters, movable word walls, cookie sheet hearts, name charts).
- Fingerspelling is connected to children's names (Handwriting and "Helper of the Day" strategy).
  - *A/"a" alligator and A/"a" Anna and...B/"b" bear and B/"b" Brian: your name starts with that same sound!*

## My Room Has A-Z Word Walls with Movable "Heart Word" Cards

- Children use them during writers workshop time. With limited space, a cookie sheet or an oil pan may become an additional movable word wall! ABC Phonics images on our word wall uses consistent images.



- Challenge more proficient readers toward their current targets.
- Teacher articulates lavender/purple word distinction.
- Small sets of color-specific "heart words" are made ahead, and there is a system for sending them home on a ring and/or in word boxes for family literacy.
- New color-specific words go up on the word wall AFTER they have been taught and while children observe. Newly taught words are reviewed.

## We Involve Parents as Partners in Teaching High-Frequency "Heart Words"



- "Heart Word"/fingerspelling cards are available for family practice and individual or collaborative use.
- "Heart word" "I Can Read" pages are included in student anthology notebooks.
- Teachers make copies of the *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* CD for family listening (permission is granted).

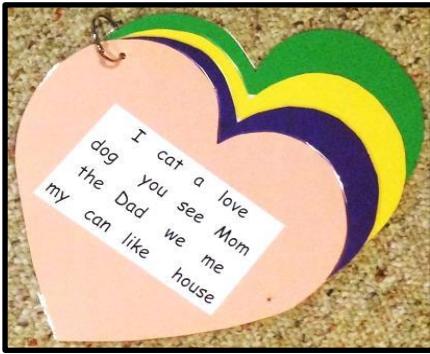


### Ongoing Assessment Drives Instruction, and Learning Is Celebrated!

- Consistent and engaging learning rituals and celebrations keep children motivated and focused (e.g. taking home their first "heart word" necklace or reading their "heart word" book).
- There is a visual acknowledgement (or celebration) for the child who masters the next "heart word" set. Each child soon has a photo on an award, or in a **Hip Hip Hooray!** class book.

### Our Students Use Music, Fingerspelling, Art, Drama, Movement, Dance, and Sign Language

- They create memory hooks for new words
- They *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* and practice accurate handwriting. (High-frequency "heart words" **simultaneously accelerates** reading and writing fluency!)
- Floor "heart word" posters are available for Read-to-Self and Read-to-Buddy times.



Set of 4 mini Heart Word posters



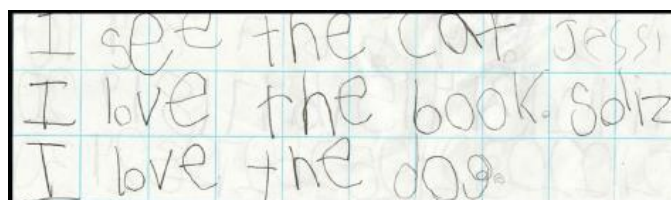
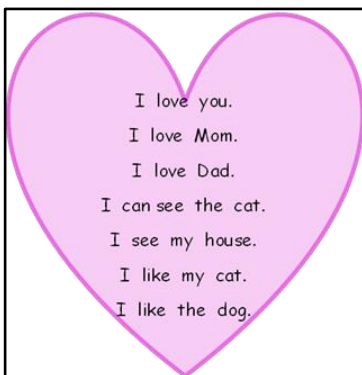
## "I love you" Is Our "Heart Word" Anchor Sentence: We Read, Write, and Fingerspell the Words

- We expect all children to master this sentence using accurate handwriting, spaces between words and punctuation. Even special needs students can write "I love you" early in the year.



## Students Write High-Frequency "Heart Word" Sentences Daily to Build Fluency and Writing Stamina for the Common Core Writing Standards

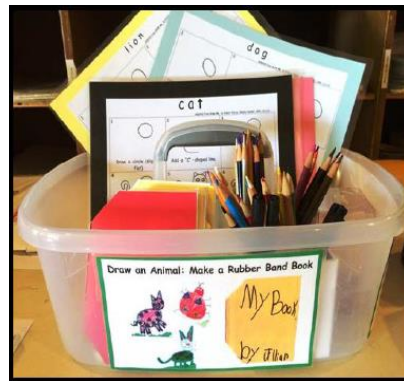
- Daily quick writes build fluency.
- Children develop writing muscles and confidence.
- The sentence sequence is: "I love you." "I see the..." "I like my..." "I can see..." "I have..." "This is a..."
- "Heart word" sentences are used in authentic book making projects.





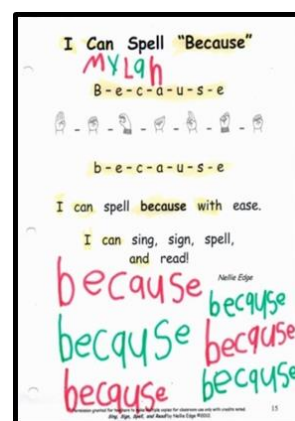
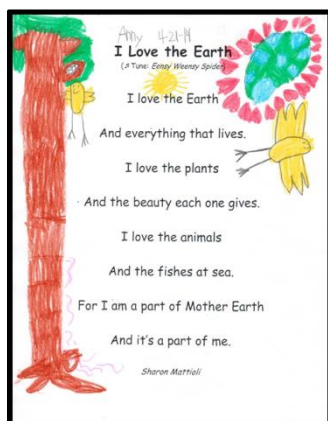
## Independent Writing Totes Provide Systematic and Authentic "Heart Word" Practice

- Independent writing totes provide drawing and bookmaking experiences with a sequence of "heart word" sentences: "I love the...", "I see a...", "I like my...", "I can see...", "This is the..."
- Children learn over 30 "heart word" songs and chants as an auditory memory link to the spelling sequences and rhythm of words!



## Learning Is Differentiated

- There is constant challenge for the more-proficient readers and writers, and there are supports for the developmentally-younger and less-experienced writers.
- As soon as a more proficient reader has mastered the first 62 words, additional organized sets of first and second grade high-frequency words are added. These are systematically color coordinated in groups of 15-16 words.

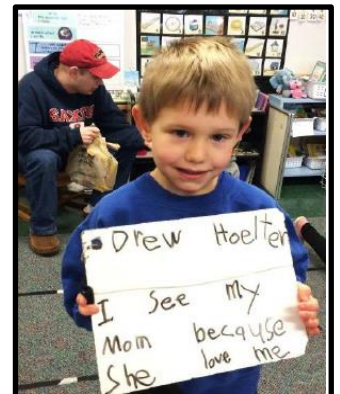
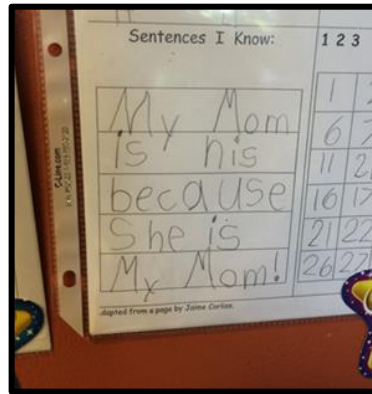
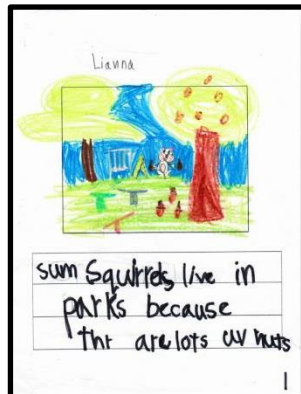


**"I Can Read" Anthology Pages Featuring "Heart Word" Songs and Chants Are Illustrated**

- Children understand and follow the learning procedures. They take pride in doing quality work and in challenging themselves to fingerspell, write, and read each new word.
- Engaging writing lessons include fluency practice with "heart word" sentences.

- As new "heart words" are taught, they are added to the Word Wall and old ones continue to be practiced and reviewed!

### **We Teach the Common Core Opinion Writing Word "because" Through Rhythm and Rhyme Early in the Year**



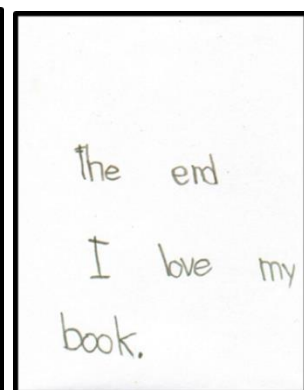
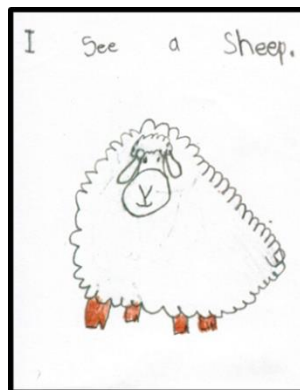
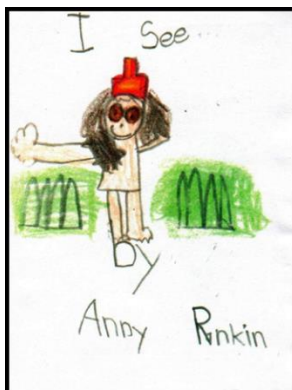
- Children write compound sentences: I love my mom because she loves me.
- Later the word "favorite" is also memorized through a spelling and fingerspelling song. Children delight in writing about their favorite things!

### **Harder-to-Accelerate Students Receive Additional Multisensory "Heart Word" Practice and Additional CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) Brain Exercises for Fluency**

- Response to Intervention (RTI) Teams or Kindergarten Intervention (KI) Teams of volunteers, parents, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading buddies provide additional targeted practice — especially building fluency with pink "heart word" sentences and CVC words and providing abc brain exercises for speed and accuracy.

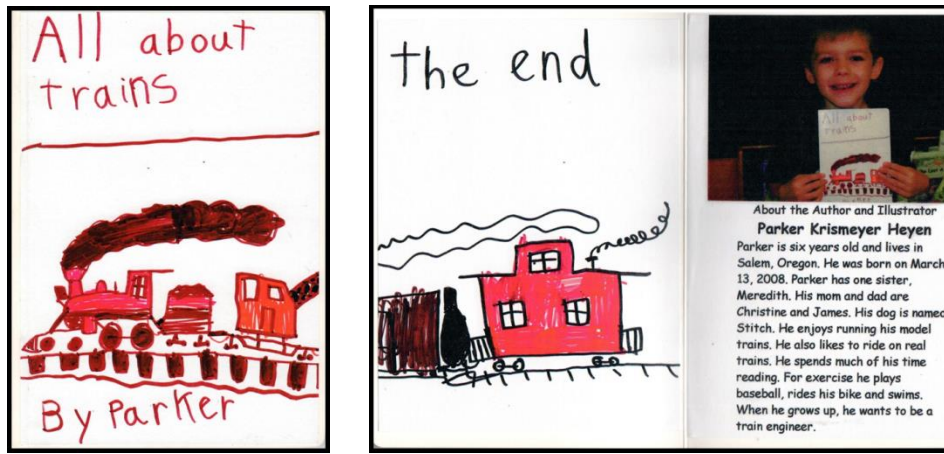
### **Children Are Engaged in Authentic, Motivating Writing-to-Read Experiences Throughout the Day and Across the Curriculum: It's How the Brain Learns Best!**

- Early in the year children learn to draw animals and write "heart word" sentences in their own books.

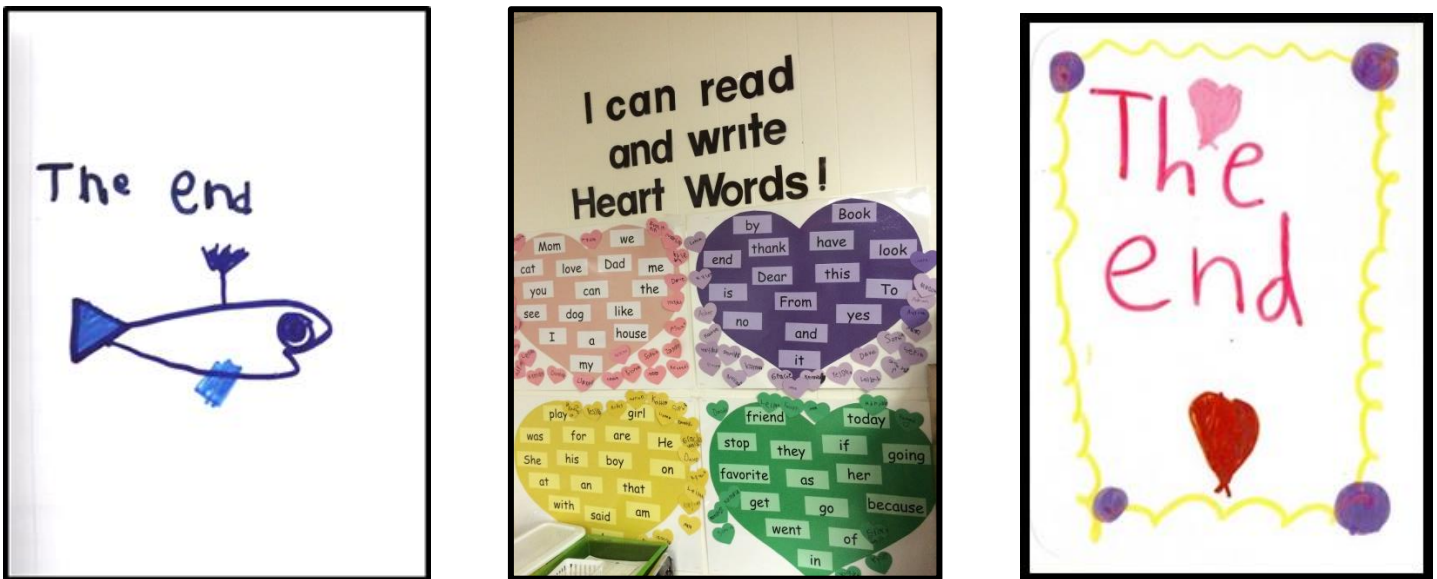


- The writing workshop model gives children choice of topics.

### **Our Expanded and Comprehensive Kindergarten Writing Workshop Model Includes Students as Authors and Illustrators, Publishing Their Own Books**



**Art, Creativity, Voice, and Playfulness Are Part of the Writing Process!**



**Choose Joyful Pathways to the Common Core: Allow Children's Creativity to Flourish While Meeting Rigorous Writing Standards...**

To learn more from accomplished kindergarten writing teachers, peruse the "Heart Word" page, and view video clips of multisensory word work strategies.