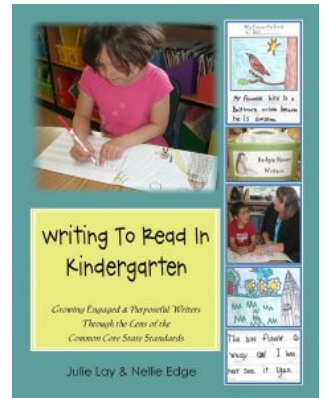


Why Do Kindergarten Teachers Recommend Using Colored Markers for Writing Text?

Thin-tipped, washable markers offer a more enticing entry into writing text over using pencils as they give children a range of vibrant colors to choose from. Children use thin-tipped markers for writing their text only. Markers glide smoothly over the paper thereby reducing the drag that a pencil has making it much less fatiguing for little hands. -Julie Lay, Writing To Read in Kindergarten: Growing Engaged and Purposeful Writers with Common Core Connections.



Markers are more comfortable to use than pencils, and they make writing so much fun! Teachers prefer markers because their points don't break, students don't spend time sharpening them, and students don't waste time erasing. Most importantly, we gain understanding about children's thinking by seeing their initial attempts, including their attempts at beginning revising and editing. We encourage children to cross out and just keep going. Stopping to erase may interfere with a child's flow of thought and creativity. If it is just not feasible for children to use markers, pencils without erasers are the next-best choice. -Eileen G. Feldgus, Ed.D., Isabell Cardonick, M.Ed., J. Richard Gentry, Ph.D., Kid Writing in the 21st Century

At least at the start of the year, when you will want to move heaven and earth to lure children toward writing and when supplies have not yet run low, many teachers try to make it possible for kindergarteners to write with sturdy marker pens, first-graders with thinner marker pens (although still the pens can't be the ones that squish easily or they won't last long), and second-graders with pens. Because markers are hot items, that plan will only work if the markers are communally owned. Otherwise, one can imagine conflagrations arising over who the owner is of this or that marker. -Lucy Calkins, A Guide to the Common Core Writing Workshop.

Because young children usually tell their stories through drawings first, they need the best materials we can afford to give them so they can craft their stories well: colored pencils, which makes it possible for them to draw the smallest of details, which is necessary to make drawings look life-like; multicultural pencils, so they can make the skin of the people in their pictures look real; and felt-tip pens, for writing letters and drawing. ...we have found that the children do high-quality illustrations with high-quality colored pencils. -Martha Horn and Mary Ellen Giacobbe, Talking, Drawing, Writing: Lessons for Our Youngest Writers