

How to Turn ALL Kindergartners into Motivated, Engaged Writers

by Nellie Edge



- Joyful, Multisensory Teaching and Learning
- Meaning-Centered Writing Across the Curriculum
- Differentiated, Authentic, and Rich in the Arts

Another gift of Joyful Literacy from Nellie Edge

Nellie Edge Kindergarten Writing Curriculum: Our Vision and Challenge



Nellie Edge Resources and Professional Development Workshops are committed to helping ALL children achieve the rigor of State Literacy Standards through joyful pathways to learning. Our workshops, presented by outstanding teacher-researchers, are designed to integrate current research and state-of-the-art literacy practices that are meaning-centered and in harmony with how the young child's brain learns best.

Our action-research has proved that joyful writing-to-read strategies within a comprehensive literacy framework accelerate learning and produce unexpectedly high outcomes. Our purpose is to share "best practices" and to inspire reflection, collaboration, and intentional teaching. "How can I do a better job reaching every child?" and "How do I create a classroom community that recognizes the social nature of learning, the importance of the mentor-apprentice relationship, and the vital role of the educational arts?" When teachers truly understand the writing process, growth mindset, and the power of intentional multisensory teaching, they can more easily and effectively create responsive environments that embrace the diverse learning styles and gifts that our children bring to school. **Rigorous standards are reached when children are deeply engaged in authentic literacy experiences and challenged to become ambitious readers, writers, and thinkers.** Kindness, collaboration, and hard work are part of our culture.

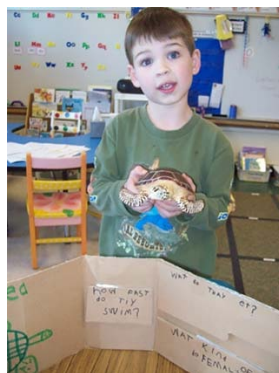
Bruno Bettelheim's research reminds us that how children perceive themselves in the act of learning to read generalizes to their whole self-concept. With this in mind, we are committed, through our professional development programs and literacy resources, to assist teachers in creating challenging and caring learning environments that will provide all children with the foundations they need to build on success. **We believe learning to read and write must be a meaning-centered, engaging process.** Our expectation is that every child can and will develop high levels of literacy, an "I Can" attitude, and friendships while building belief systems of caring, belonging, and the motivation to do their best.

Our Online Seminars, workshops and resources support our commitment to excellence in literacy, the honoring of childhood, and our belief that educators can and must positively influence the lives of children and the future of our democratic society.

***Our vision is... creating schools worthy of our children:
joyful and rigorous learning communities with strong family connections!***

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Explore a Comprehensive Kindergarten Writing Program with Expert, Intentional Instruction

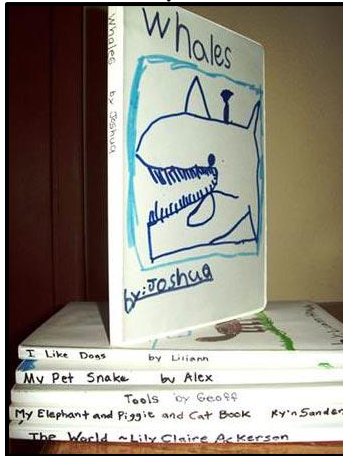
by Nellie Edge



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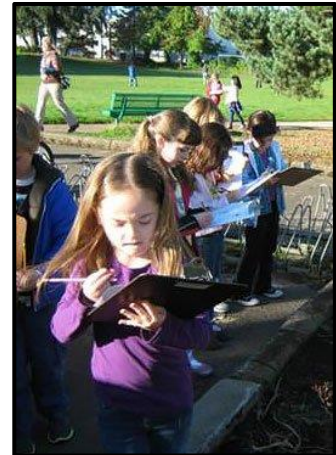
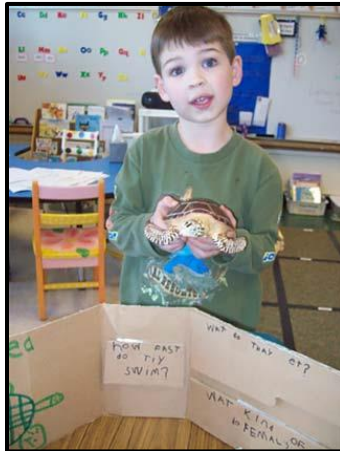
10 Highest-Impact Kindergarten Writing Strategies

My action-research with master teachers in diverse kindergarten classrooms has proven that kindergartners are absolutely capable of becoming engaged and purposeful writers. The following document represents my passion for growing these young writers over decades of work with kindergartners and their wise, accomplished teachers. When we make writing real and provide expert, intentional instruction, children not only learn to write...they love to write! Our multisensory writing-as-thinking model with authentic writing lessons across the curriculum builds the reading and writing brain and prevents reading failure!



We have developed a comprehensive kindergarten writing framework with 10 high-impact writing strategies that may be used in tandem with any writing workshop model to dramatically accelerate literacy and develop kindergarten writers and illustrators. The following pages provide glimpses of master kindergarten teachers and kids immersed in risk-free environments with high levels of writing support and challenge. The engaging and proven strategies documented allow diverse young learners to achieve unexpectedly high levels of writing proficiency.

What Were Our Challenges as We Raised Our Writing Expectations?



- **How do we honor childhood, social-emotional learning, and the language development** that underlies all quality kindergarten instruction?
- **How do we differentiate instruction** to simultaneously support and challenge diverse learners (usually a 4-year developmental span within the same kindergarten)? How do we engage Parents as Partners?
- **How do we raise our expectations and motivate ALL students** to do the hard work necessary to become engaged and purposeful young writers?
- **How do we teach writing as a thinking process** so students transfer their learning and build writing independence and stamina?
- **How do we teach more intentionally, systematically, and create joyful pathways** to rigorous state standards?

Authentic, meaning-centered writing across the curriculum is the answer: We have learned that explicit, intentional lessons lead to real writing! ABC Phonics mastery starts with daily singing and fingerspelling. "Heart word" work and phonics lessons build fluency for writing success. All children deserve such a model that is multisensory and art-rich, adding meaning to their lives. Our program is referred to as a TAG model. It is how we grow ALL young writers!

Learning to Write Is a Science and an Art

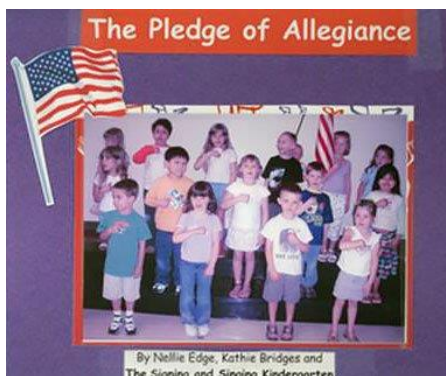
Science: Our goal is to motivate each student to give their best effort to the purposeful practice and repetition needed to build "heart word" sentence mastery and confidence using phonics-based spelling. **Art:** We want them to experience writing as a thinking and creative process right from the start of their academic journey. Kindergartners can quickly build circles of writing mastery so they have the confidence and stamina to do the hard and exciting work of becoming an engaged and purposeful writer. They have learned: *my art and writing tell a story.*

What Does a Comprehensive Kindergarten Writing Program Look Like?

Glimpses of 10 Highest-Impact Writing Strategies



1. **Bond with Children, and Create a Joyful Learning Community, Rich in Poetry, Songs, Sign Language, Literature, and Celebrations.** Use collaborative experiences in the arts and deep connections with nature to engage the child in reading, writing, thinking, speaking, listening, creating, and caring. See [Celebrate Language](#) page at [NellieEdge.com](#).

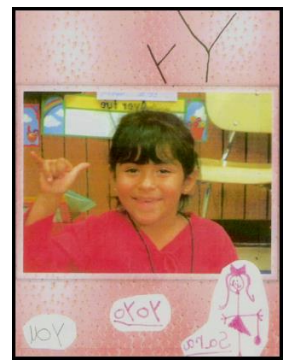
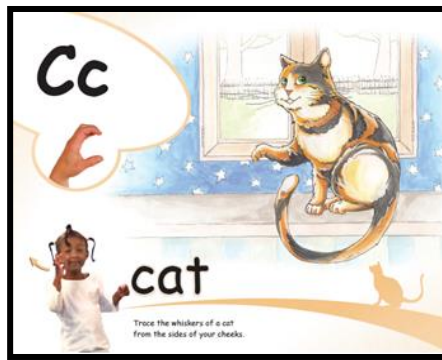


Once you get the community right the levels of learning soar.

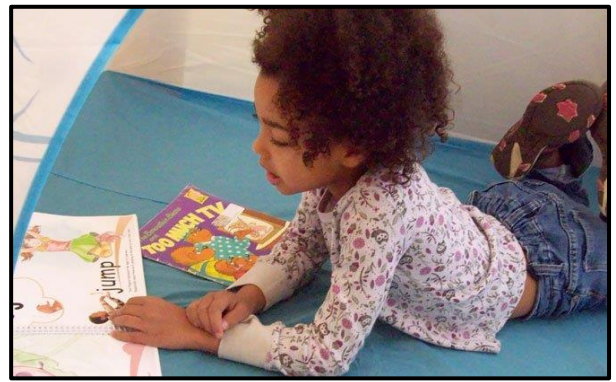
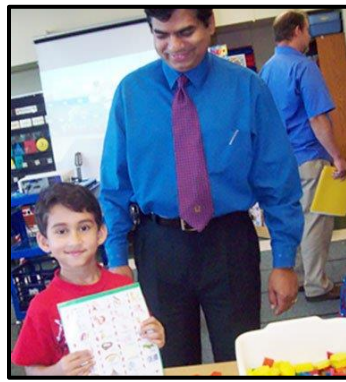
- Ralph Peterson

Special Appreciation

A sincere thanks to the kindergarten teachers whose beautiful, nurturing, and joyful classrooms inspired my work: Shanda Lung, Celeste Starr, Katie Nelson, Laura Flocker, , Jaime Corliss, Kathie Bridges, Jennifer Foster, Jeff James, Jacque Verrall, Diane Bonica, Beck Leber, Joanie Cutler, Bobbi Fisher, and Lisa Young.

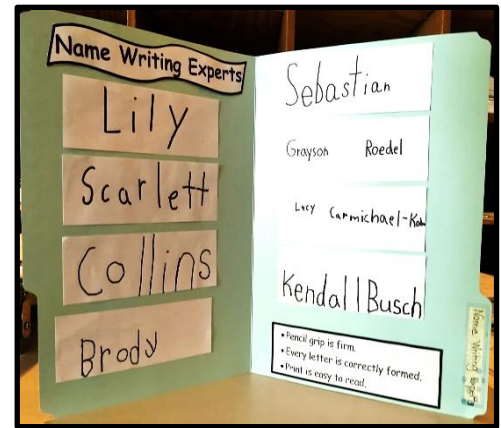
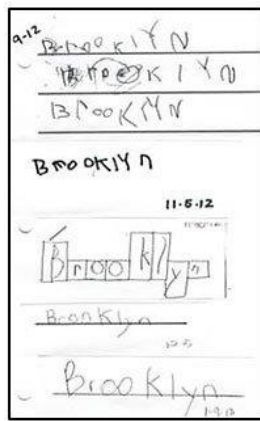


2. Use Multisensory ABC and Phonics Immersion with American Sign Language and Parents as Partners: Sing it, sign, it, and send it home. Have high expectations and teach for 3 levels of ABC Phonics mastery! Choose multicultural resources to build letter/sound knowledge.

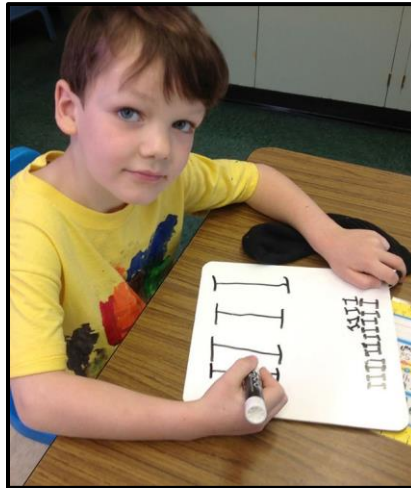


To learn more, peruse the [ABC Phonics page at Nellieedge.com](http://Nellieedge.com) with video tutorials from Nellie Edge Online Seminar #1.

Take advantage of how the brain learns best: Engage auditory, kinesthetic, and visual modalities to accelerate literacy!

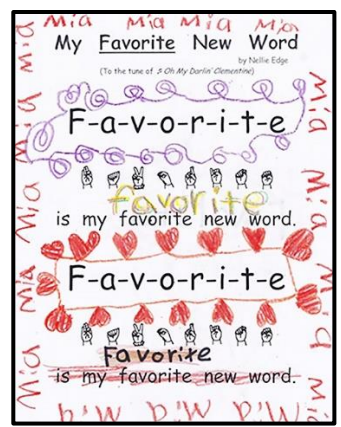


3. Begin Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting with the Student Names and High-Frequency "Heart Words:" Teach basic handwriting motions through memorable songs, dances, and movement chants. Good handwriting with pink "heart word" sentences simultaneously builds fluency and stamina for Writing Workshop.

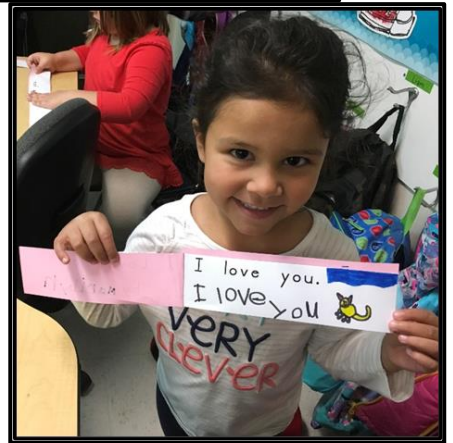
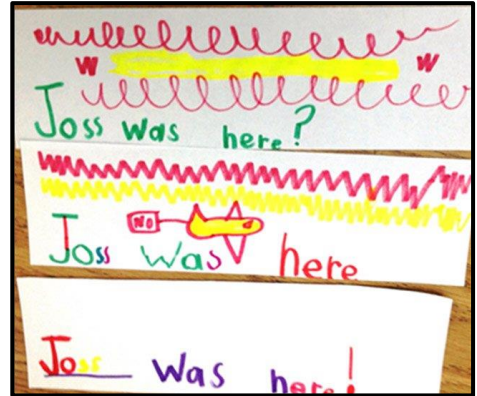
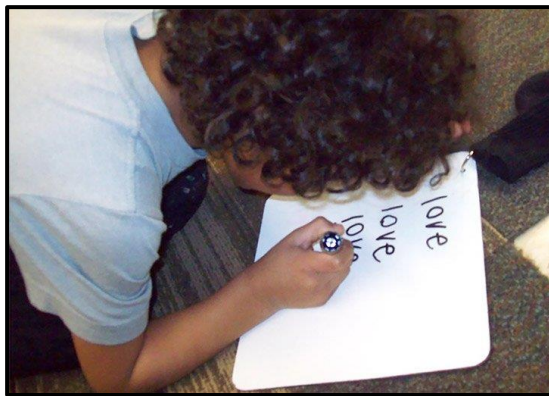


For a detailed overview of this strategy, see the [Handwriting page](#).

If handwriting motions are not efficient it interferes with the whole writing process.



4. Teach for Fluency with High-Frequency "Heart Word" Sentences and Provide Explicit Phonics Lessons Encoding Sounds to Print. Sing, sign, spell, and write real sentences—systematically, playfully, and with great intention! Make learning visible and give children crystal-clear, individual learning targets. "I love you" is the first circle of kindergarten writing mastery.

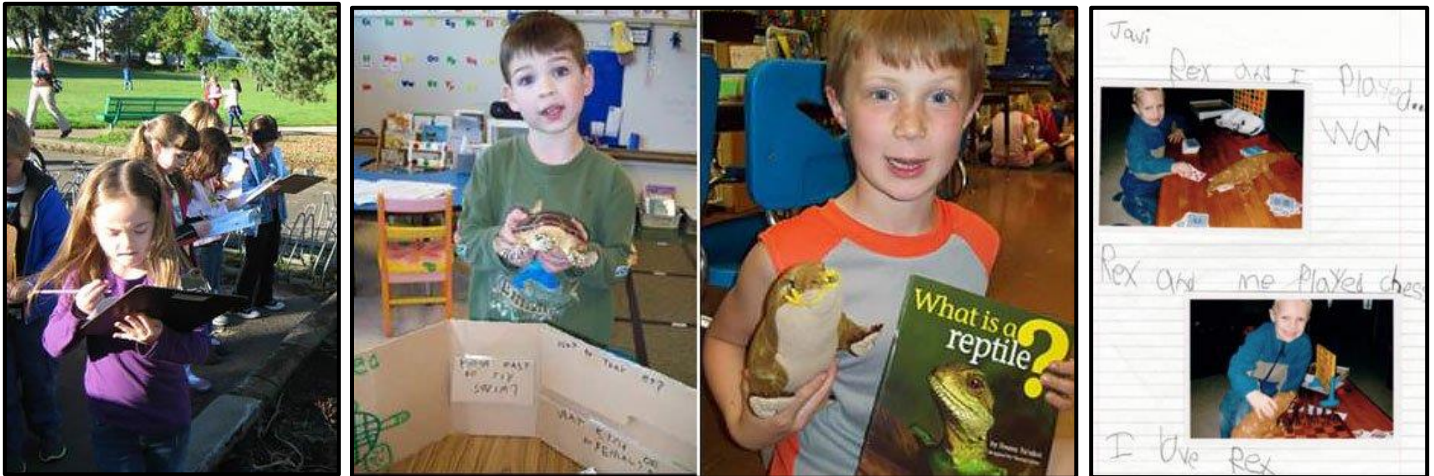


For a detailed overview of this strategy see the ["Sight Words" page](#) with video tutorials from Nellie Edge Online Seminar #3.

Provide engaging minilessons that touch the heart and imagination of young students while building writing fluency and stamina.



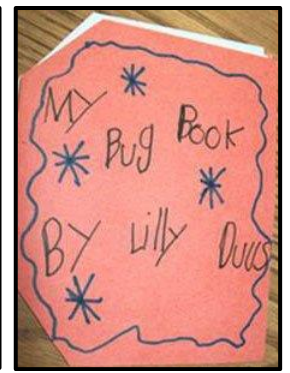
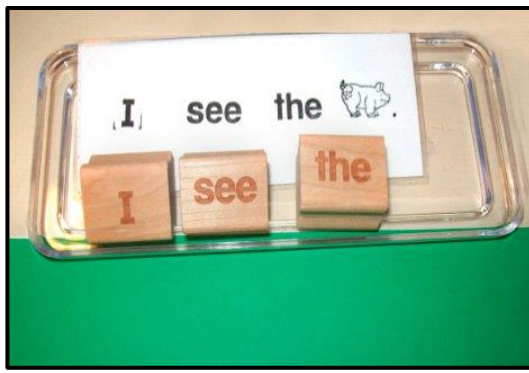
5. Create a Culture of Engaged and Purposeful Writers through a Comprehensive Writing Workshop Model with Authentic Writing Experiences Across the Curriculum; including children's play. Coach into their writing, and share student work daily. Nurture an "I can do it!" growth mindset. Writing Workshop is where phonics-based spelling and "heart words" are practiced authentically.



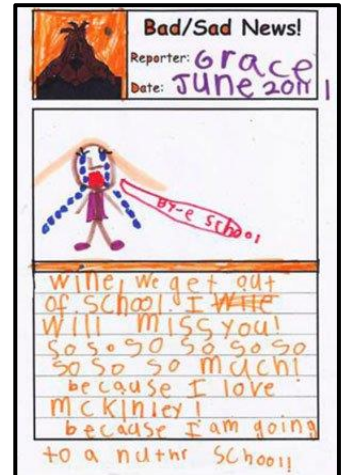
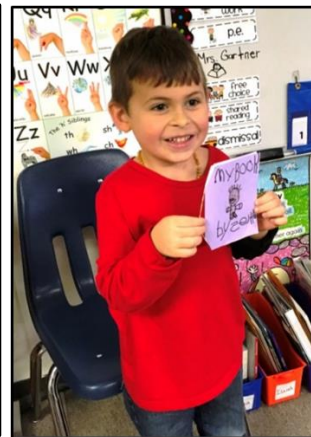
For a closer look at authentic kindergarten writing and expert writing lessons, peruse the writing pages at NellieEdge.com:

- [Narrative Writing](#)
- [Opinion Writing](#)
- [Information Writing page](#)

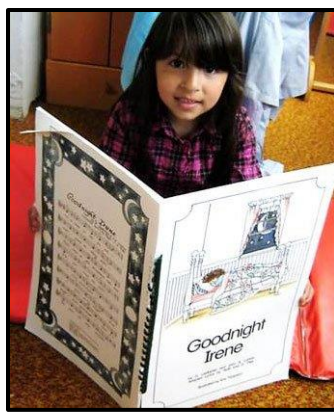
Recent research has demonstrated that virtually every child who begins kindergarten could be reading on grade level by the end of first grade. Few schools accomplish this because few schools provide the expert and intensive writing lessons needed. - Richard Allington, from "Teaching Edge," International Reading Association



6. Invite Children to Use Independent Writing and Drawing Centers to Practice Their Craft in a Meaningful Context and Develop Writing Stamina. Make lists, write messages to friends, and create "really cool" books. Thoughtfully provide "choice words" and responsive feedback to your children. Read: [How to Talk to Children about Their Writing](#).



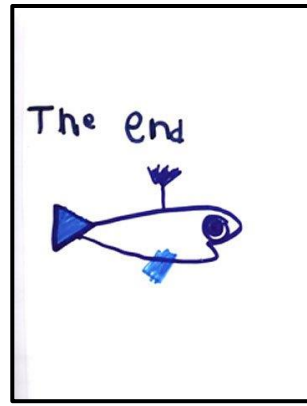
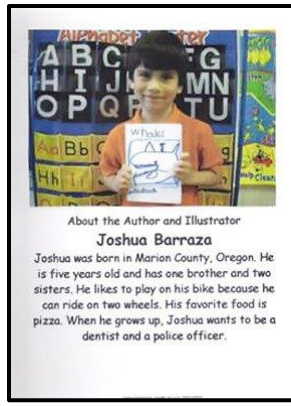
We can choose to spoon-feed our children or we can teach them to be independent, self-regulated learners.



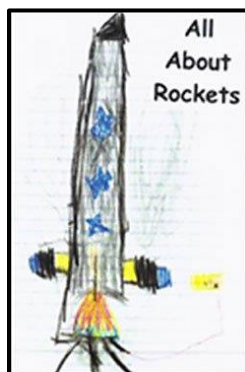
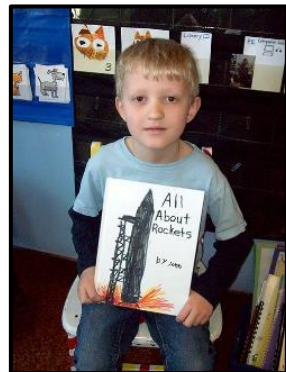
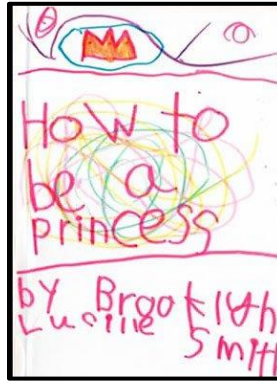
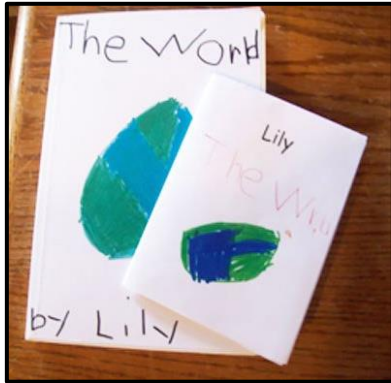
7. Build Oral Language Fluency and "Voracious Vocabulary" Learning Habits, and Create a Culture of Book Lovers! Introduce well-loved song picture books, poetry, "I Can Read" Notebooks, quality fiction, and nonfiction as mentor texts. Involve children in book clubs, science exploration, and family research projects. Use literature to inform narrative, information, and opinion writing.



I know well that only the rarest kind of best in anything can be good enough for the young. - Walter de la Mare, Bells of Grass



8. Publish Children's Books and Celebrate Young Authors in Simple and Delightful Ways! Invite children to proofread and edit their own "really cool" books. Discover the powerful affirmation through word and song, "Prolific Writers Are We!" To learn more, study Kindergarten Writing Workshop series on TPT: Dramatically Accelerate Kindergarten Writing Proficiency!



Kindergartners, like twelfth graders, draft, revise, edit, and publish their writing.

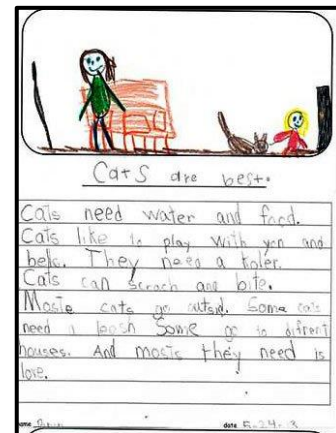
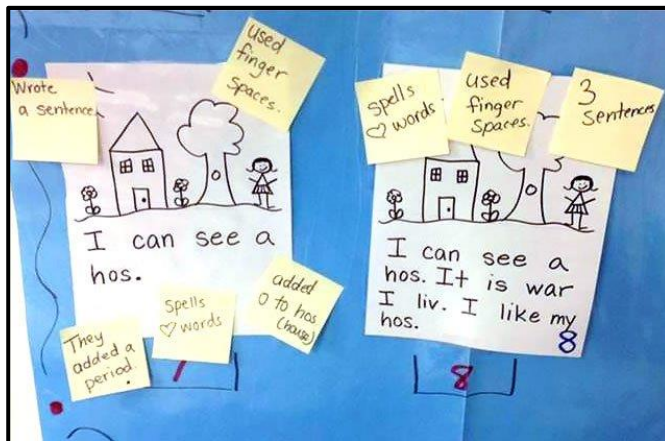
- Lucy Calkins

Writing Goals			
Use finger spaces.	Atticus Lyall Oskar	Soren Eise Ava	
Write heart words.	Parker Augustus	Tieman Gus	
Listen for sounds.	Bo Emily Devon	Tygh William T. Connor	Maggie Celeste Nevaah
Can reread my writing.	Aubrey Jordan Peyton	Jacob Koren	
Capital letter to start my sentence.	William P. Lauren		
Punctuation to end my sentence. (!?)	Richard Malakya	Ginger	

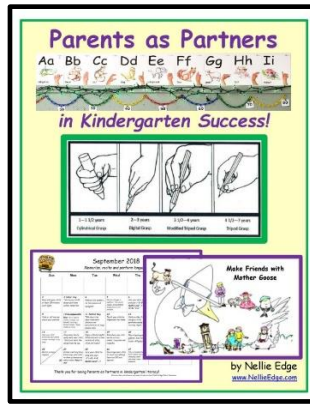
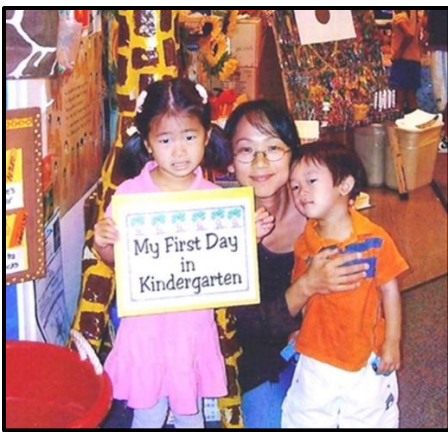


My Writing and Proofreading Checklist		
Name	Date	
	Did I do quality illustrating?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I leave spaces between each word?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
I A	Did I start each sentence with a capital letter?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
. ! ?	Did I end each sentence with punctuation?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I spell "heart words" correctly?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
Vowels: a, e, i, o, u pet big pop cup	Did I write CVC words?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>
	Did I write 3 or more sentences?	Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Starting <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! <input type="checkbox"/>

9. Use Ongoing Authentic Assessment Culminating in Student-led Parent Conferences. Fall in love with assessment: Be systematic and intentional with high expectations. End the year with simple and memorable celebrations of learning!



Tracking developmental spelling is at the core of good assessment-driven instruction for beginning reading. - Richard Gentry



10. Involve Parents as Partners to Nurture a Love of Reading, Writing, Drawing, and Exploring Nature. Families reinforce foundational literacy skills through singing, talking, dancing, reading, observing nature, and authentic writing activities at home. Family literacy multiplies our teaching effectiveness. (See Family Learning Calendar.)

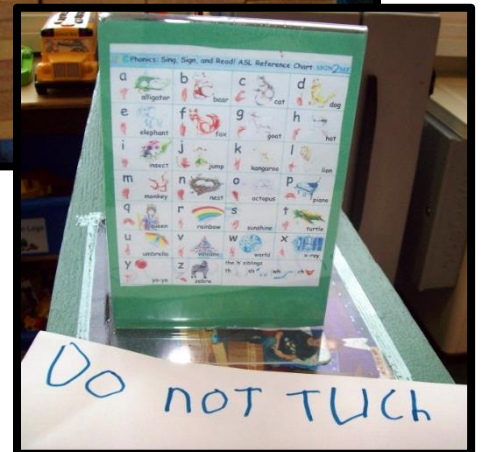


As teachers of the young, we have a "covenant" with parents that says, "We jointly share responsibility for teaching your child." - Ernest Boyer

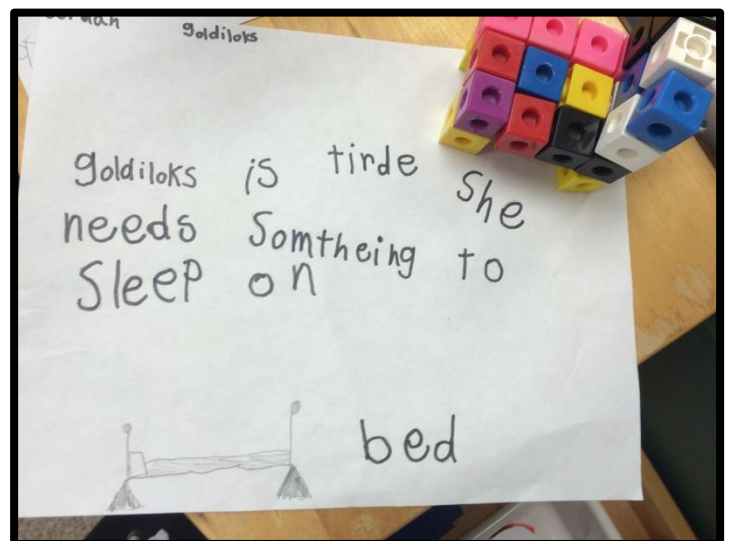
RESULTING BONUS?

Children who benefit from this comprehensive writing framework with expert, intensive writing lessons:

*Not only learn to write—they choose to write—
across the curriculum*



♪ Ask, imagine, plan, create... ♪ and then write about it so you can share your ideas. Song by Winter Curry ©2015.



Goldilocks is tired. She needs something to sleep on...bed.

♪ *Fall is here. Fall is here. How do you think I know?*

Leaves are falling. I know it must be so!

Kindergartners sing and take writerly scientific walks, noticing signs of fall. **This is the beginning** of information writing: Back in the classroom, students draw and label signs of fall!



- Students build oral language by singing *Fall Is Coming* or *Fall Is Here*
- Art and music allow each child to personalize learning
- We create meaning and memory connections with authentic hands-on experiences
- We are ALL teachers of English language learners

Scientific Writing Begins With First-Hand Experiences: Observing Nature, Collecting Leaves, Exploring the Poetry of Leaves, and Reading Fiction and Nonfiction to Build Background Information



Lucy Calkins encourages teachers to take children on “writerly/scientific walks.”




Exploring the poetry of leaves through movement and song.

P.S.: Poems and Songs to Memorize, Recite, and Perform

(See October and Falling Leaves under the Free Poetry Tab)

- [Leaves Are Falling](#), Nellie Edge
- [Like a Leaf or a Feather](#), anonymous
- [Leaves Fall Down](#), Margaret Wise Brown
- [Who Has Seen The Wind?](#), Christina Rosetti

 Lead your children into organizational thinking with this template. Help them identify the topic, provide a detailed drawing, add facts about the topic, and summarize with a statement of opinion. Later in the year, this organizational plan becomes a way of thinking that leads to quality informational writing.

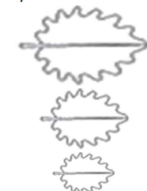
For more on the poetry of leaves see *Celebrate Language and Accelerate Literacy*, Nellie Edge, revised 2019.



My Leaf

name _____

This is my leaf. My leaf is this size:



The color of my leaf is:

green
yellow
brown

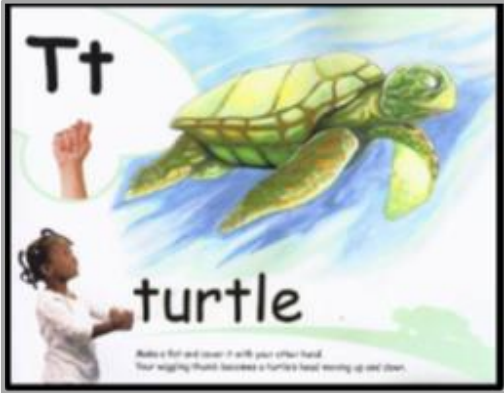
red
orange

I like my leaf because...

Writing to Read Accelerates Literacy, Nellie Edge, 2012

All Kindergartners Deserve a Cognitively Challenging Curriculum

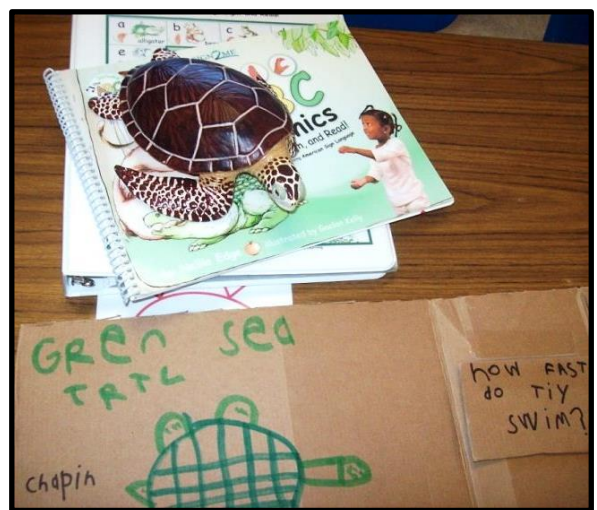
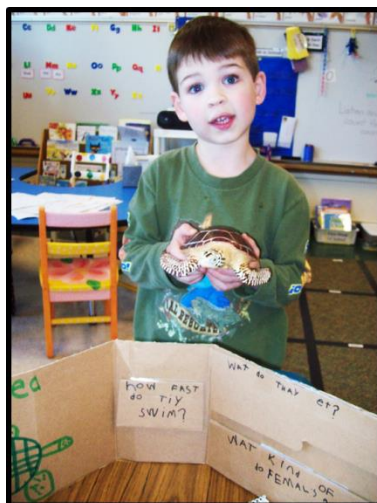
What do we know about turtles?



- Most turtles are **terrestrial** reptiles
- Turtles don't have **outer ears** but they can feel vibrations
- Turtles that live in cold **climates** will hibernate in mud in the winter
- Sometimes a turtle is call a **terrapin** or a **tortoise**

In September, Chapin took home the *ABC Phonics Science Animal Research Notebook* in a bag with replicas of a few key phonics animals. [PebbleGo Animals](#) and [Epic! Science](#) are good online science research sites.

Several Days Later, Chapin Brings In His Project to Share



Chapin clearly demonstrated mastery of **Information Writing** and **Presentation**: He identified a topic and conducted online research, with information and illustrations about the topic. Chapin completed his project with a lively presentation and responded to classmates' questions. His enthusiasm about turtles inspired other budding researchers to study and become experts about animals of their interest.

See *ABC Phonics* tab at [NellieEdge.com](#) for *Animal Research Project* details.

Speaking and Listening Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- SL.K.4. Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional details.
- SL.K.5. Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.
- SL.K.6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

Writing


- W.K.2. Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Science Inquiry with Our Box Turtles

Science Observation Form

Name Elizabeth Date FEB 3 2015

I observed Charlie and Gizmo
 very closely. I see that
~~Charlie and Gizmo~~ have
different shells.

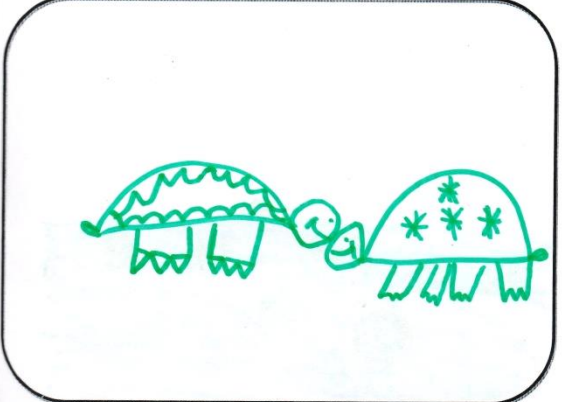


I see that Charlie and Gizmo have different shells.

Science Observation Form

Name Kennedi Date FEB 2 2015

I observed Gizmo and Charlie
 very closely. I see Gizmo's
his nails go faster
thin than Charlie's.




I see Gizmo's nails grow faster than Charlie's.

Science Observation Form

Name Drew W Date JAN 30 2015

I observed Charlie and Gizmo
 very closely. I notice
that they
have designs on
their shells.

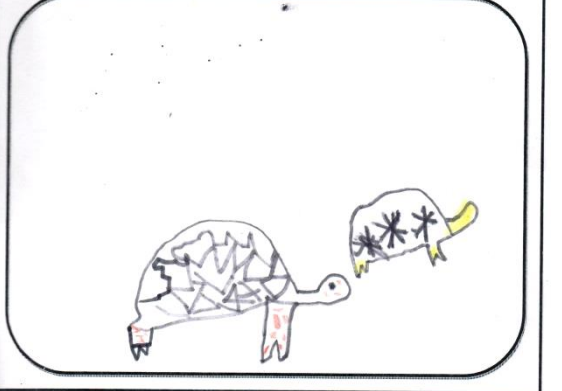


I noticed that they have decorations on their shells.

Science Observation Form

Name _____ Date Feb. 2

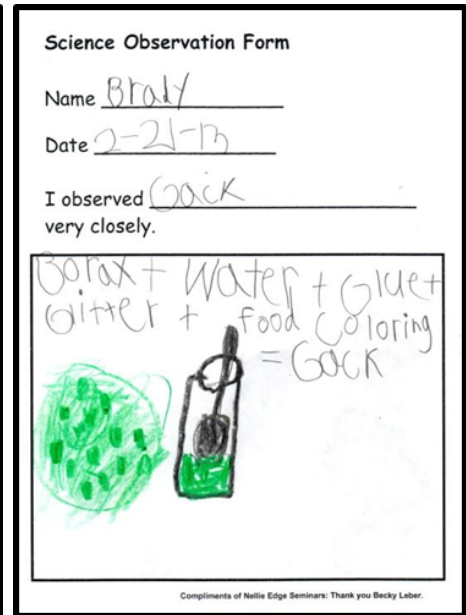
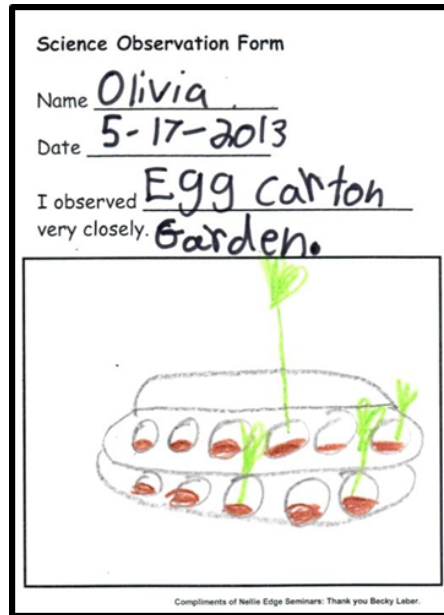
I observed Charlie and Gizmo
 very closely. I see
that Charlie has
orange designs and
Gizmo has yellow designs.



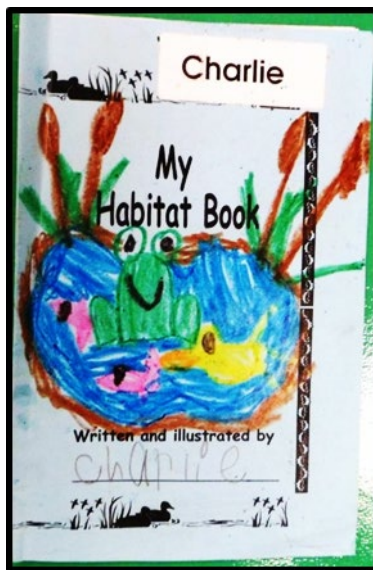
I noticed Charlie has orange designs and Gizmo has yellow designs.

Information Writing Occurs Throughout the Year

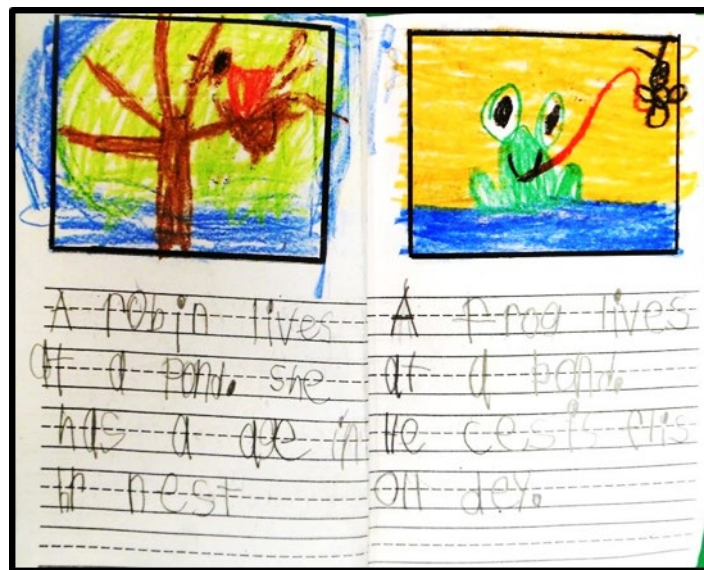
We begin the year taking what Lucy Calkins calls "Writerly/Scientific Walks." Children learn to closely observe nature, draw what they see, and engage in inquiry-based science projects, recording weekly observations in their Science Observation Notebooks. By the end of the year children write books about in-depth nature studies.



Borax + water + glue + glitter + food coloring = Gack



A robin lives at a pond. She has an egg in her nest.



A frog lives at a pond. He seizes flies all day.

A month long study of the pond included children creating animal habitats as a family literacy project, performing songs and poems about pond animals, reading nonfiction informational books, and a field trip to explore pond animals. For *My Habitat Book*, kindergarten teacher Diane Bonica modeled how to draw each animal from the study and how to write a sample informational sentence for each page. Each child then decided one other important informational sentence to write. Two pages were done each day for a week during writing workshop time. Children had the writing confidence to fearlessly tackle big words such as oviparous and camouflage.

Send Home Weekend News Journals to Encourage Storytelling and Narrative Writing



On Spring break my family drove to Arizona. At the house there was a swimming pool! I swam lots. Swimming with my cousin was my favorite part.



On Sunday I woke up and we had no power. A tree fell on the power line. We went to Starbucks for breakfast. Then we went to the courthouse for swimming. It was fun.

On Sunday I woke up and we had no power. A tree fell on the power line. We went to Starbucks for breakfast. Then we went to the courthouse for swimming. It was fun.



I went to the park and it was fun. And my Mom and Dad came.

This weekend I helped raise money for the Oregon Food Bank. It was a basket ball tournament. I had a lot of fun.



This weekend I helped raise money for the Oregon Food Bank. It was a basketball tournament. I had a lot of fun.

I went to the carnival. I got a Shoco. It was yummy. I went with my mom and brother. It was fun.



What About Lined Paper?

Some teachers use wide, single-lined paper, others prefer using "kid writing" paper or blank pages in the Weekend News Journals. **There is no one right way!** Notice that parents of these more proficient writers drew lines for their children to write on.

Writing Workshop Themes

Kindergarten with Jaime Corliss

Michelle

scientist

APR 10 2014

date

♪ Spring is coming. Spring is coming. How do you think I know? ♪

Signs of Spring



Look closely at nature. Draw and label signs of Spring.

Sing, Sign, Spell and Read the Opinion Writing Word "Because:" These "I Can Read" Notebook Pages Go Home for Family Literacy

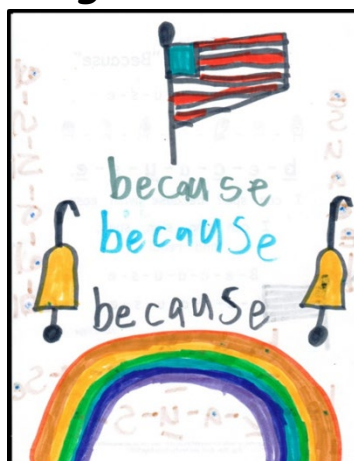
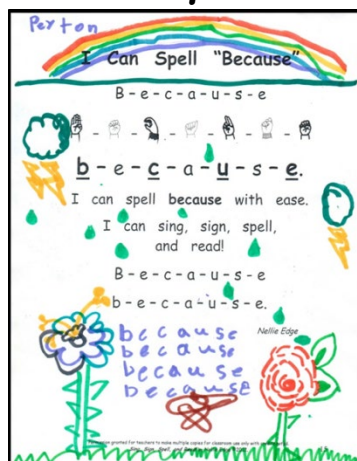
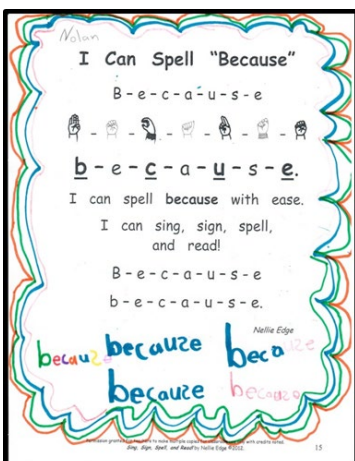
You have permission to give families copies of the *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* CD for multisensory teaching and learning. Families will sing spelling songs together!



Rehearsal/Memory Strategies: (from *Sight Word Program* by Nellie Edge on TpT)

1. Sing (using the "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" melody) or say the rhyme rhythmically while writing "b-e-c-a-u-s-e" (auditory).
2. Then write "because" at least 3 times (kinesthetic).
3. Hear the word in your ear. (auditory) Take a picture with your eyes (visual).
4. Fingerspell every other letter and create a design or draw a picture (kinesthetic and artistic).

You Will Remember the Opinion Writing Word "because" Forever!



Encourage multisensory teaching and build left-brain visual images.

- Take a picture of the word with your eyes.
- You can always fancy up your page.
- Turn the page over and write the word from memory.
- **Build metacognition:** What helps you remember new words?

February Opinion Writing Samples

from Laura Flocker's Kindergarten

Oral language rehearsal strategies included the *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* words: friend and because. Children also sang ♪ *I like my friend because...and because* ♪ (to an old folk song melody). Notice quality handwriting and creativity with page layout and art. Children are also playing with punctuation. The *Elephant and Piggie* mentor texts inspired children to try out ellipses. (See page 169a from *Kindergarten Writing and the Common Core: Joyful Pathways to Accelerated Literacy* by Nellie Edge.)



Emma

I like My friend Because
he likes me. she likes
to play with me! I like
my Bratr. he likes
me. he helps me!
~~she is nice!~~ She is nice!

name Emma date 2-24-14

I like my friend because he likes me. She likes to play with me. I like my brother. He likes me! He helps me! She is nice!



Brenno

I like My Friend because... she Hips me I like my friend because she play with me

name Brenno date 2-24-14

I like my friend because she helps me. I like my friend because she plays with me.



Taylor

I like my friend Because she pas wif me and pas wif me.

name Taylor date 2-24-14

I like my friend because she plays with me and reads with me.



Adrian

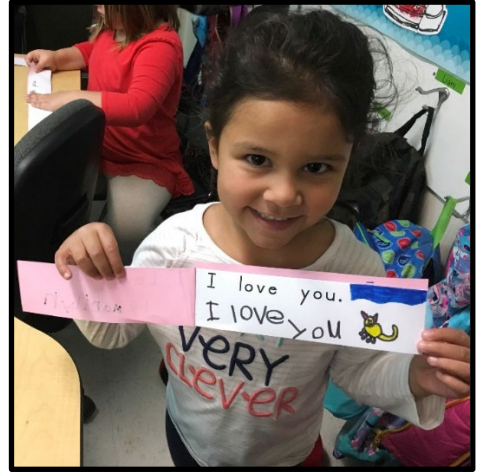
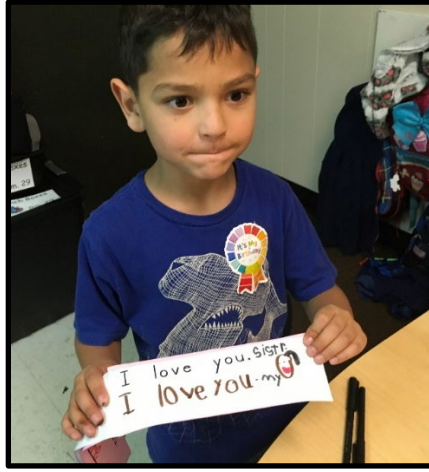
I-like-my-friend-because he-plays-with-me. I-like-my-friend-because- we-have-playdays. ~~and because we play matches.~~

name Adrian date 2-24-14

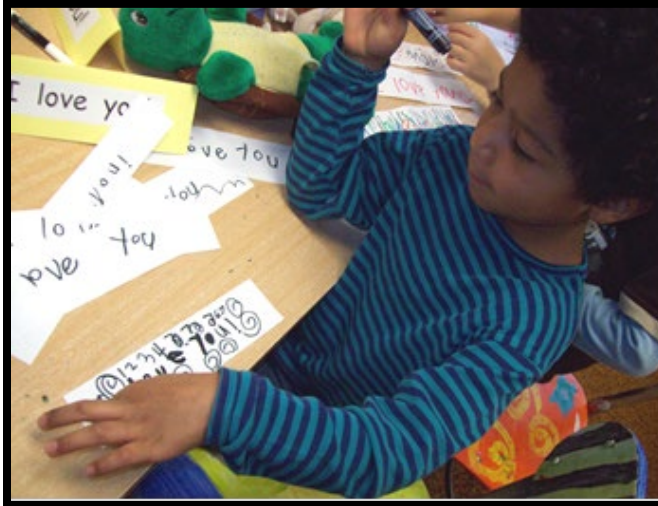
I like my friend because he plays with me. I like my friend because we have play days and because we play chess.

Our pictures and words tell a story.

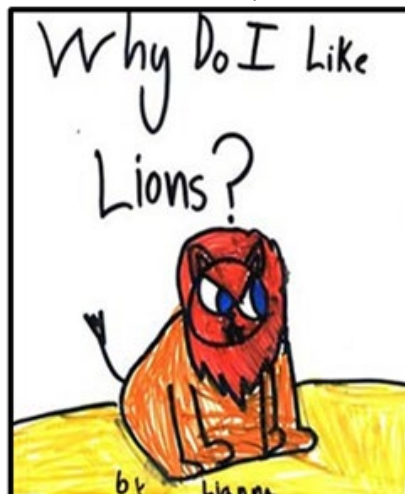
"I love you" Becomes the First Circle of Kindergarten Writing Mastery, Followed by "I see, I like, I can, I have"



Two things young writers know for sure: 1) If I practice writing "heart word" sentences every day, my writing is going to get really good! 2) If I practice phonics-based spelling, I will be able to fearlessly tackle any unknown word!

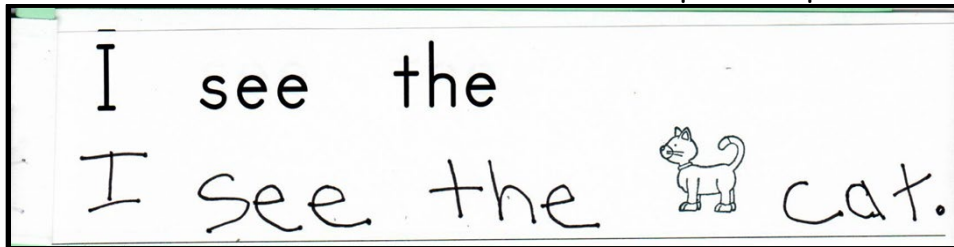


Kindergartners are absolutely able to write and illustrate books by the end of the year!



Use Sentence Models: Build Writing Fluency

Students copy the sentence model and choose an animal stamp to complete the sentence.

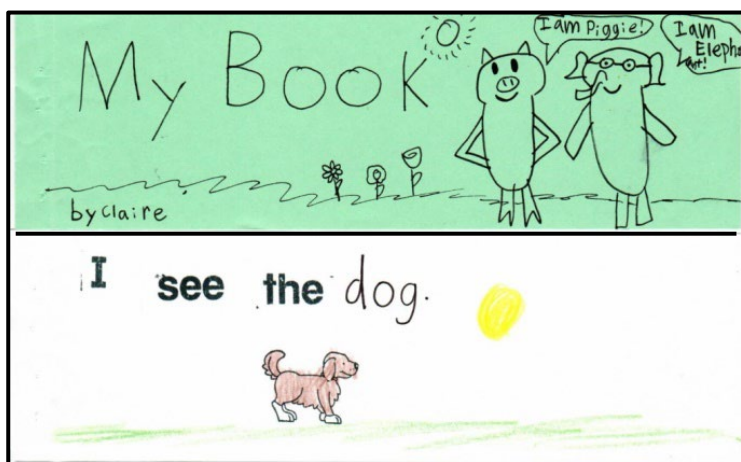


Use "heart word" sentences to build writing fluency! Staple 4-5 pages with the same sentence model into a "Stamp and Write Skinny Book" with a colored front and back cover.

Choose farm, zoo, ocean animals, or pets.



What do more prolific writers create?



This Is What Kindergarten Heart Word Sentence "Fluency Practice" Looks Like by the End of the Year

Name Finley Date June 25

I can write 5 different heart word sentences!

- 1♥ I love My Pando!
- 2♥ I See a Bee?
- 3♥ I like Bunnies!
- 4♥ I can swim?
- 5♥ I have a Pixa Bol!

Why do I practice writing "heart word" sentences?
 If I practice this every day, my writing is going to get really good!

- heart words spelled correctly
- good handwriting
- spaces between words
- a period at the end of each sentence

*Love - * **

*** I am an expert at 5 heart word sentences! ***

NellieEdge.com

Name Colton Wallace Date June

I can write 5 different heart word sentences!

- 1♥ I like cats.
- 2♥ I love Dogs.
- 3♥ I see a fox.
- 4♥ I can run.
- 5♥ I have a cat.

Why do I practice writing "heart word" sentences?
 If I practice this every day, my writing is going to get really good!

- heart words spelled correctly
- good handwriting
- spaces between words
- a period at the end of each sentence

*** I am an expert at 5 heart word sentences! ***

NellieEdge.com

Name Xochitl Date _____

I can write 5 different heart word sentences!

- 1♥ I love you.
- 2♥ I see a cat.
- 3♥ I like my mom.
- 4♥ I can see a dog.
- 5♥ I have a dog.

Why do I practice writing "heart word" sentences?
 If I practice this every day, my writing is going to get really good!

- heart words spelled correctly
- good handwriting
- spaces between words
- a period at the end of each sentence

*** I am an expert at 5 heart word sentences! ***

NellieEdge.com

Name Caroline Roth Date _____

I can write 5 different heart word sentences!

- 1♥ I love art!
- 2♥ I See the Cardinals.
- 3♥ look at the Carus!
- 4♥ I Can see a tree.
- 5♥ I have a house.

Why do I practice writing "heart word" sentences?
 If I practice this every day, my writing is going to get really good!

- heart words spelled correctly
- good handwriting
- spaces between words
- a period at the end of each sentence

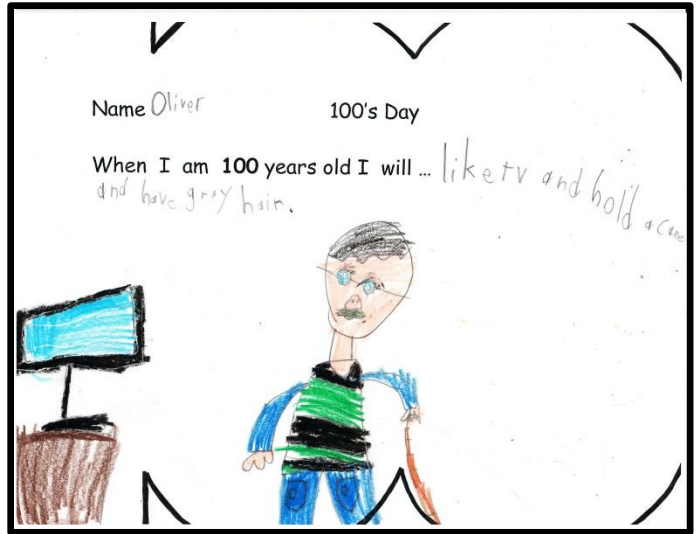
*** I am an expert at 5 heart word sentences! ***

NellieEdge.com

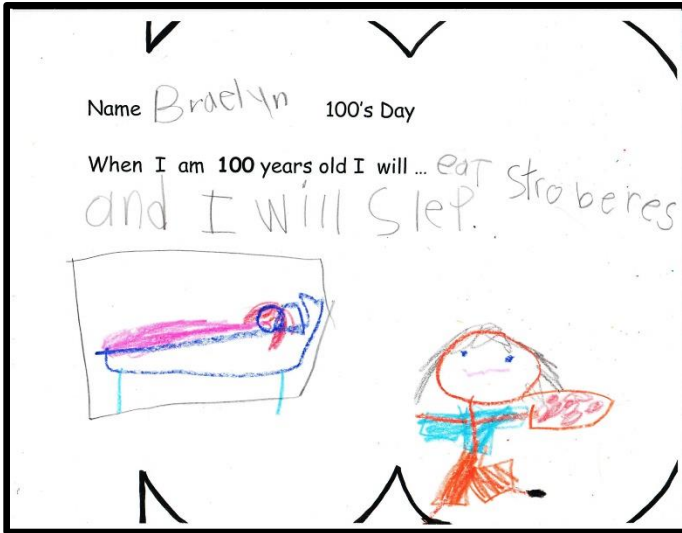
When I Am 100 Years Old I Will...



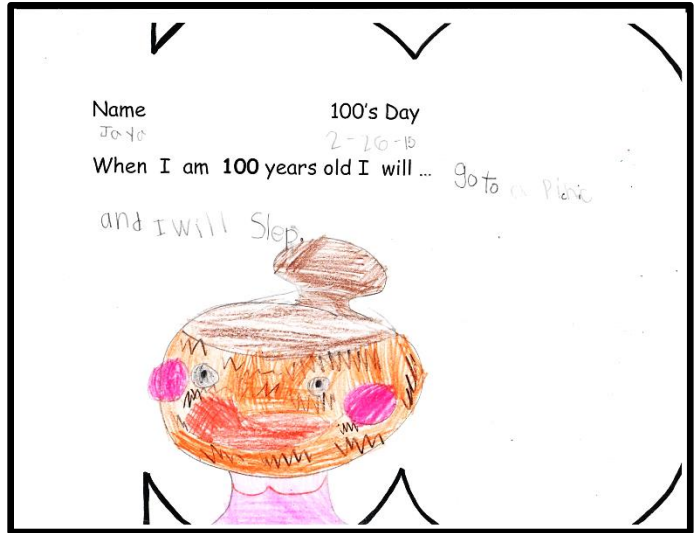
...call Reese. Read a book. I will call "Do you want to come over Reese?"



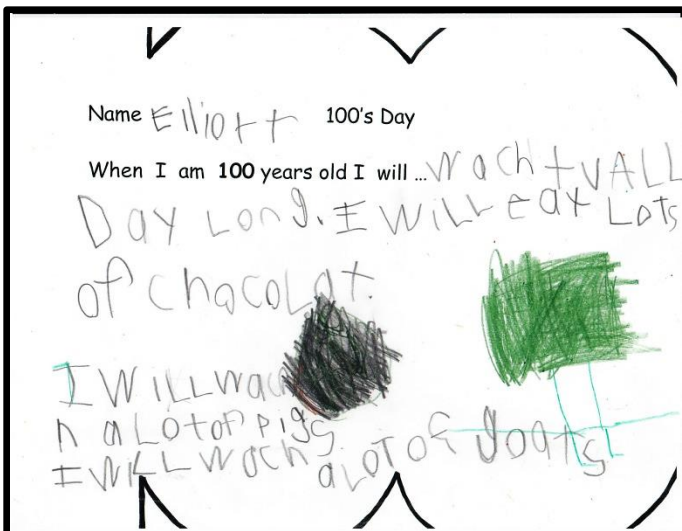
...like TV and hold a cane and have gray hair.



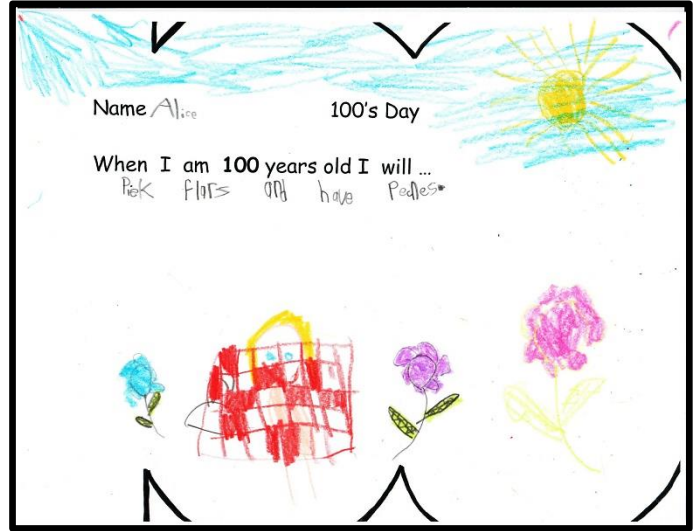
...eat strawberries and I will sleep.



...go to a picnic and I will sleep.



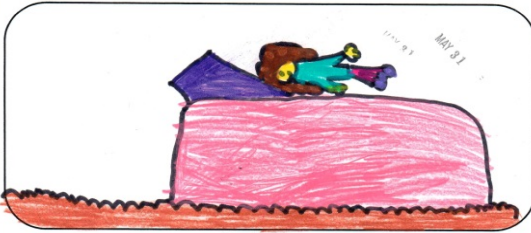
...watch TV all day long. I will eat lots of chocolate. I will watch a lot of pigs. I will watch a lot of goats.



...pick flowers and have picnics.

Children Express Opinions About Favorite Books All Year Long: Our Favorite Nellie Edge Read and Sing Book™ is *Goodnight Irene*

By the end of the year, children use "opinion words" such as like, love, favorite, and because. Many students actually remember the spelling pattern after using our *Sing, Sign, Spell and Read!* activities.

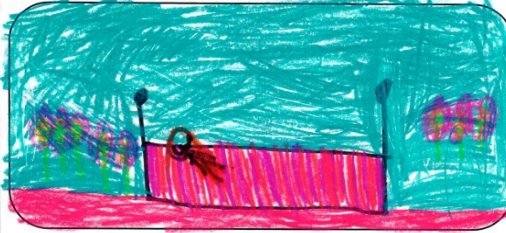


Goodnight Irene

I Love this book! because I like to sing and I like animals and I like to sign it is my favorite book it reminds me when I go to bed!

name Olivia date 5/6/31

I love this book! Because I like to sing and I like animals and I like to sign. It is my favorite book. It reminds me when I go to bed!

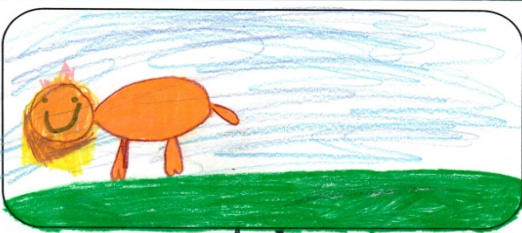


Goodnight Irene

I like Goodnight Irene because it reminds me of sleeping. I like this book because I can sing and sign in this book. This book reminds me when animals sleep. I love Goodnight Irene.

name Miyah date 5/3/13

I like Goodnight Irene because it reminds me of sleeping. I like this book because I can sing and sign in this book. This book reminds me when animals sleep. I love *Goodnight Irene*.




Goodnight Irene

I like Goodnight Irene because it tells you where animals sleep. I like animals too. My favorite part is the lion.

name Katie date

I like Goodnight Irene because it tells you where animals sleep. I like animals too. My favorite is the lion.



Goodnight Irene

This is my favorite book because my Mom's middle name is Irene. I like this because I can sign it. I like it because it tells you where animals sleep!

name Brady date MAY 5 2013

This is my favorite book because my Mom's middle name is Irene. I like this because I can sign it. I like it. I like this book because it tells you where animals sleep.

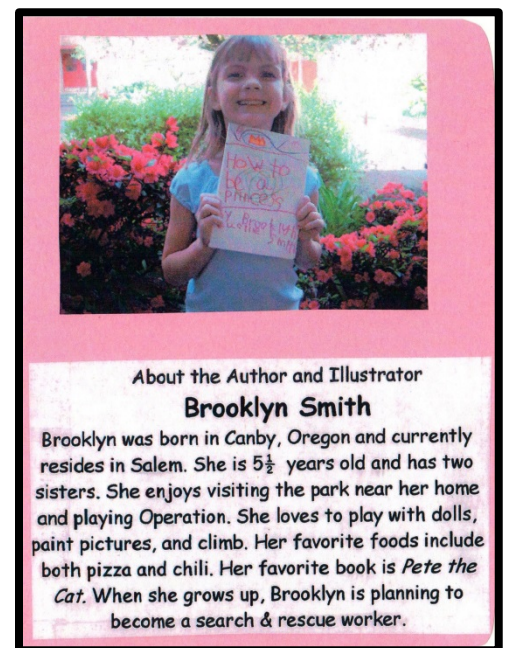
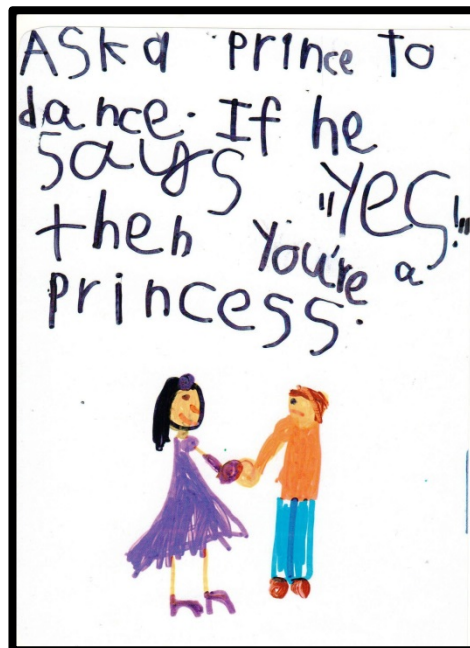
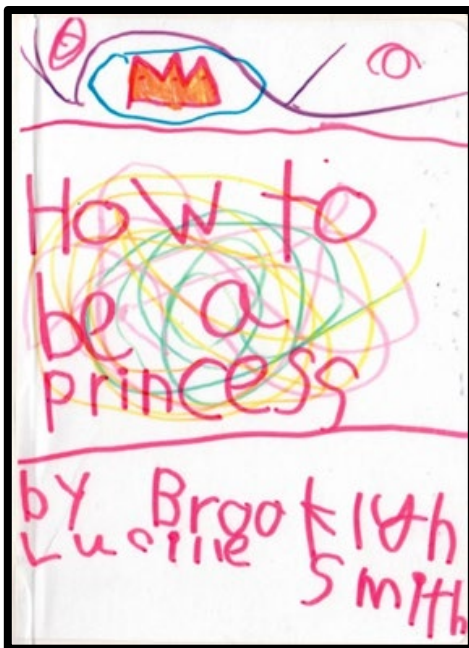
Allow Your Writing Framework to Nurture Creativity

Celebrate the Voices of Kindergarten Writers

Not all writing pieces need to fit into one prescriptive category of opinion, narrative, or information writing. Provide children opportunity for the creative process to unfold and they will write about what is most real in their lives. Their hearts and imaginations are reflected through pages of pen and ink. After all, building the disposition of prolific writers is the purpose of deep meaning-centered CCSS writing instruction.



Published books from Katie Nelson and Winter Curry



How-To Books Showcase the Unique Voices of Kindergarten Writers

Children love to make How-To books! Jacque Verrall's kindergartners each came up with a delightfully different book to proudly write and share: How to Make Macaroni and Cheese, How to Dress Fancy, How to Be a Friend, How to Make Babies Smile, How to Make Funny Hats, How to Make a Rocket Ship, How to Ride a Bike...

End-of-Year Surveys: Developing Writers and Researchers

"Choose a random sample of 10-15 children. Remind everyone to do their very best 'name ticket writing'! Count and analyze the results: What did you learn?"

What month is your birthday in
October? August?

Kindergarten Survey

What month is your birthday in

October?	August?
Henry John Lucas ①	Bobby Sebastian ②
nether Teacher Nellie Madhav Amada	nether Joey Trae Mrs. Haas

by Lucas date: May 25

I learned: less August more October
6 nether

I learned: less August more October

Do you like
September? summer time?

Kindergarten Survey

Do you like

September?	summer time?
Miss Nelson Mrs. Haas	Henry Sophia Sophie Jack Henry Teacher Nellie Mrs. Carter Robert Grace Trae Blake ⑩

by Grace date: May 25 2011

I learned: more people like summer

I learned: More people like summer

Are you perfect?

Kindergarten Survey

Are you perfect?

yes	no
Emma Mihir SKYON	Teacher Nellie CRUS DANNO hh beetle SSIKKE

by Aton date: 2011 5 25

I learned:

What did you learn?

NO

Most of the people were honest.

Do you like friends?

Kindergarten Survey

Do you like friends?

yes	no
Wadia Lipa Nicholas CIRVEM PC maisteman ahneberhase Athah W M L L L L L kaleth Nofde	①

by Emma date: 2011 5 25

I learned:

What did you notice?

I noticed that the yes had more names than the no side.

CCSS Information writing and analyzing research: It was amazing to see by the end of the year how many children were able to write all of the names of their classmates—and they chose to do it! They were thoughtful and engaged as they wrote about what they had observed or learned.

Nonfiction Studies Inspire Prolific Kindergarten Writers

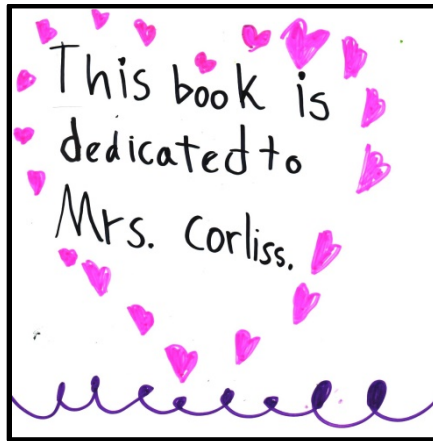
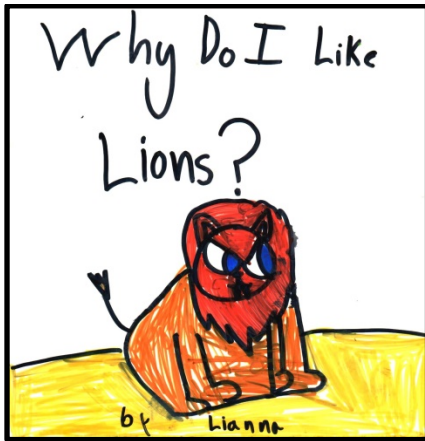


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Lions habitat	2
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Fun Facts	8

Lions live in the
Jungles.

2



Lions hunt for
food. They eat
meat.

4



Lions have sharp
teeth. They also
have big manes.

6



Did you know?
A Lions roar
can be heard as
far as 5 miles away?

8

About the Author and Illustrator
Lianna Bejar
Lianna was born in Silverton, Oregon. She is 6 years old.
Lianna has 2 brothers. She likes to draw and play on her
tablet. She likes to eat meat with white rice and broccoli.
When she grows up, Lianna aspires to be an Artist.

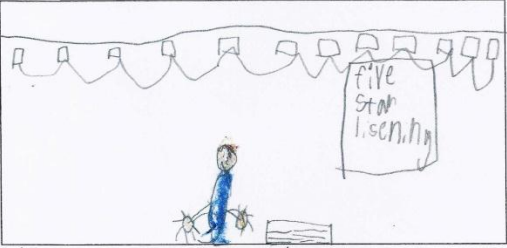


End-of-year published book from Jaime Corliss' Title 1 Kindergarten

Our Most Important Informational Message: "Dear First Grade Teacher..." Messages from Mrs. Nelson's Kindergarten

JUN 05 2012

Name Athan Payne Date _____



Dear teacher my soccer team's name is handlers. some of my favorite subjects in school are Math and Reading and Writing. My favorite book is Little House books. I have two cats. I like football.

(1 of 3 pages)

JUN 05 2012

Name Kaley Johnson Date _____



Dear teacher I am 5 years old I love dogs. Teacher can we study dogs? I am good at soccer I like every animal! I never touched a fish.

(1 of 2 pages)

Dear Teacher, My soccer team's name is Handlers. Some of my favorite subjects are math and reading and writing. My favorite book is Little House books. I have two cats. I like football. I love PE. It is really fun. I like running. My favorite game is Clue and Life. I am 6 years old. I love animals. I am especially interested in Giant Pacific octopus.

Dear Teacher, I am 5 years and I love dogs. Teacher, can we study dogs? I am good at soccer. I like every animal! I never touched a fish. I love my dogs and my cats because they love me. Dogs are my favorite animal. My favorite color is pink. I have two dogs, Maizie-Mo and Edwin.

Kaley used 38 "heart words" and 17 phonetically spelled words. Athan used 37 "heart words" and 27 phonetically spelled words.

We highlighted "heart words" that Athan and Kaley instantly knew.

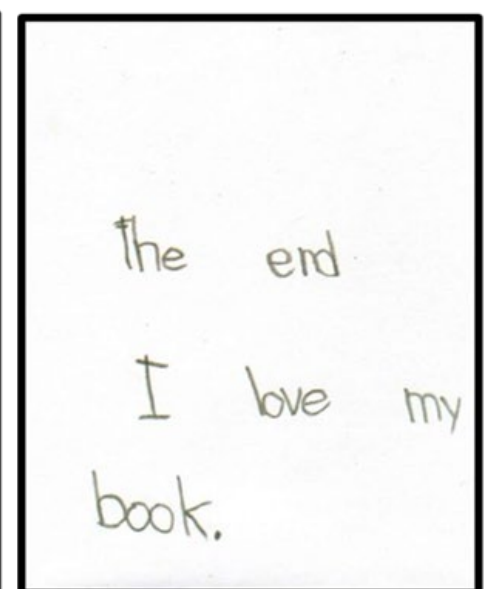
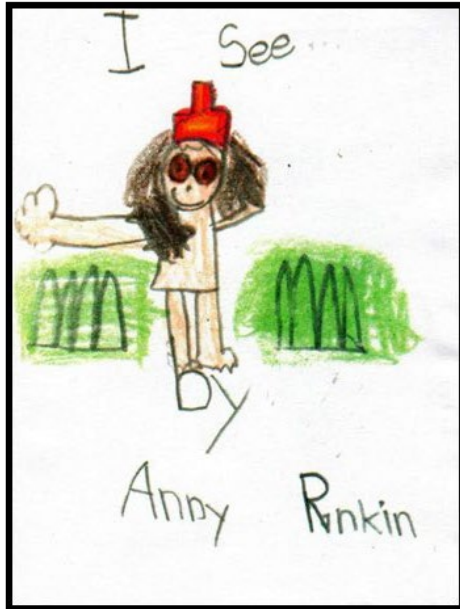
Notice—we had just introduced the *Sing, Sign, Spell, and Read!* word "favorite." Over 65% of the words these proficient writers used are high-frequency "heart words"!

Fluency with "heart words" builds writing stamina.

Laura Flocker Invites Students to Write Predictable Heart Word Sentences to Build Confident, Happy Kid Writers:

Children learn to draw, write, and make really cool books

Idea: Keep a supply of blank folded books (from 11x17" paper) in your writing tote.



Repetition of Heart Word Sentences Develops Circles of Mastery!

Notice:

- handwriting
- spacing between words
- punctuation
- guided drawing proficiency and writing fluency
- pride and joy: I love my book!

Parents as Partners

How to Make Rubber Band Books

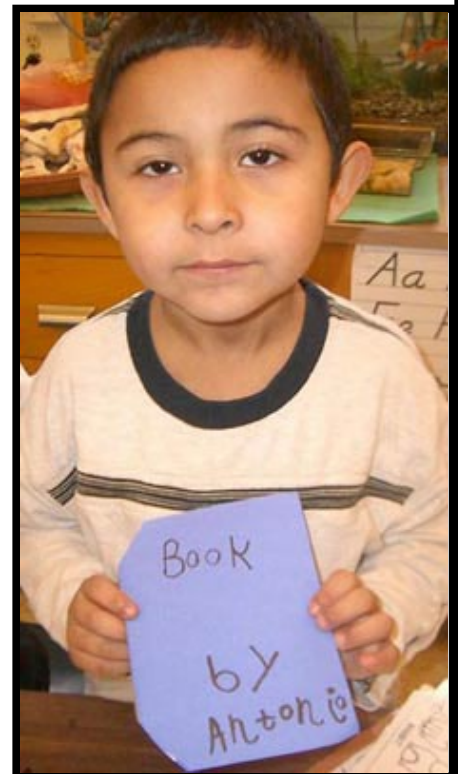
1. Pre-cut $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strips of white paper.
2. Fold in half.
3. Cut a "V" from the top and the bottom.
4. Cut $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ -inch colored construction paper in half and fold.
5. Rubber bands $3\frac{3}{4}$ " is best size.
6. Children choose from assorted colored covers and assemble the book by laying the smaller white sheet on top of the colored sheet and attaching the rubber band in the V cut out.

One folded paper and one cover makes a 4-page book.

Tip: Children love to make their own Rubber Band Books!
Teach them how step-by-step.



Special thanks to Becky Leber, from whom we first learned about these really cool little books.

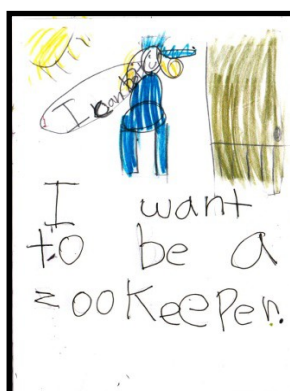
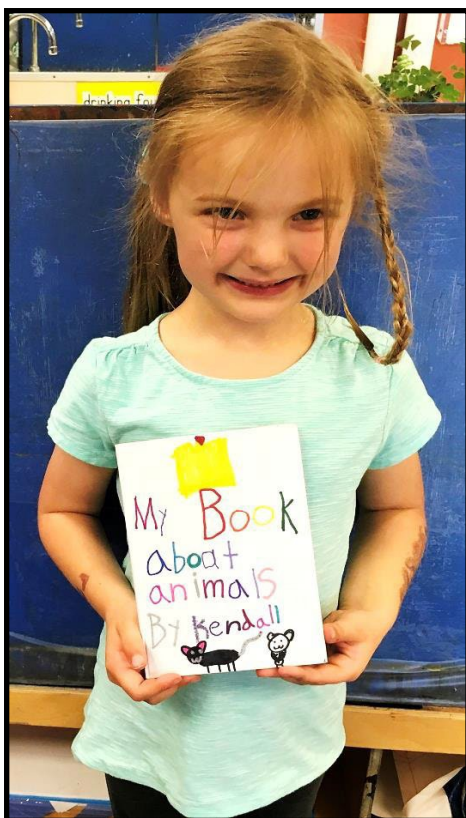
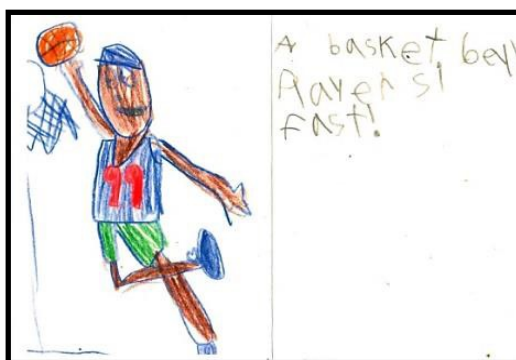
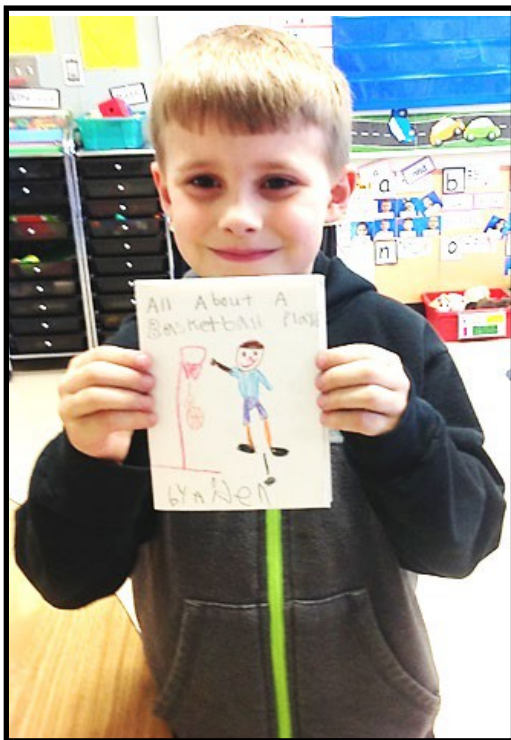


Children Delight in Writing Authentic Messages to Their Teachers, Family, and Friends



High Expectations for ALL Students: Give Them Blank Books Watch Them Find their Voices as Writers and Illustrators

Aiden's teacher, Shanda Lung, gave him drawing models of basketball players.
Result: "All About Basketball Players"



Once students have demonstrated writing proficiency with "heart word" sentences and phonetically spelled words, give them **scope** for the imagination, give them **pens**, and let them **soar!** Kendall is from Celeste Starr's kindergarten of writers!

Information Writing Can Lead to Published Books

Nonfiction study with Jamie Corliss, Title 1 kindergarten

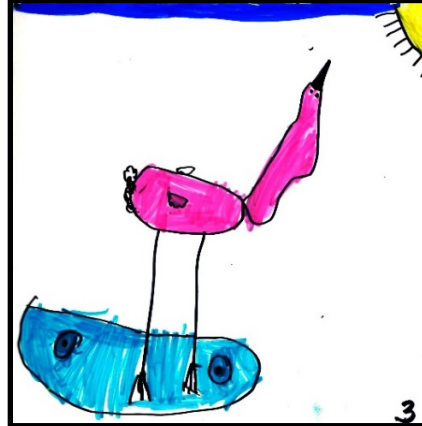


THIS book is dedicated to My Mom.

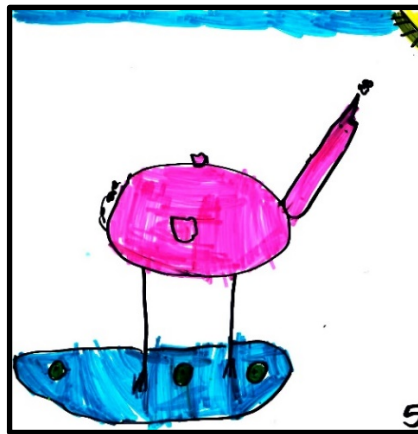
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Flamingos Look like	6
Flamingos Fun Facts	8

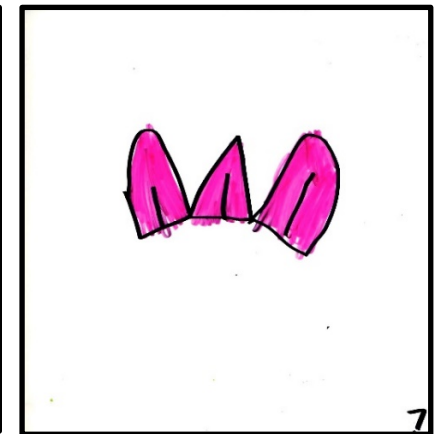
Flamingos live in lakes.



Flamingos eat plants and shrimp.

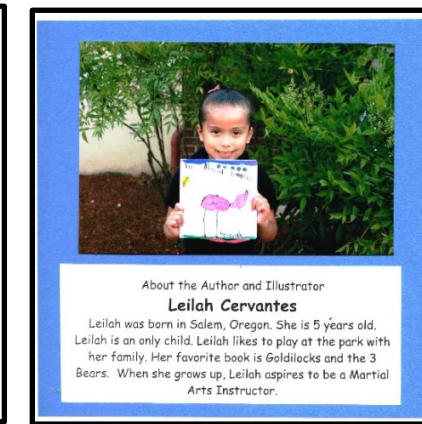


Flamingos have pink feathers the shrimp they eat make them pink.



Did you know? Flamingos fly for miles!

A hand-drawn illustration of two pink flamingos flying in a blue sky. The flamingos are facing left, and the sky is represented by a blue background.

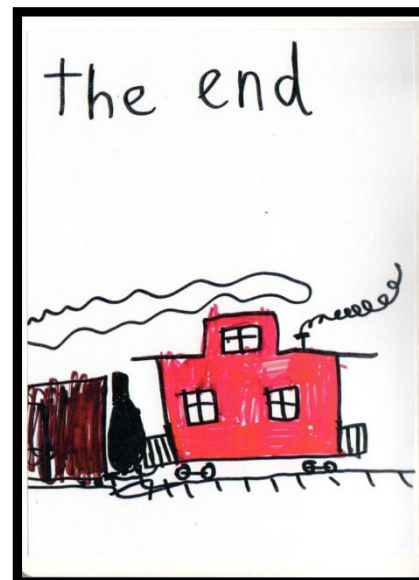
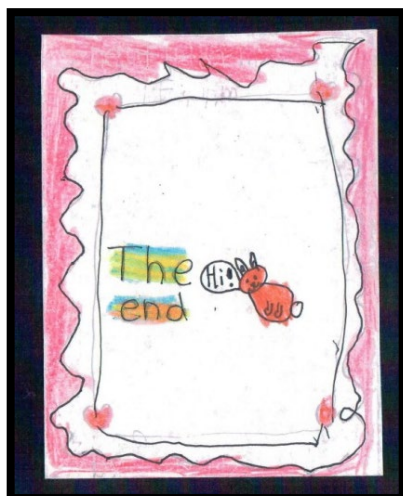
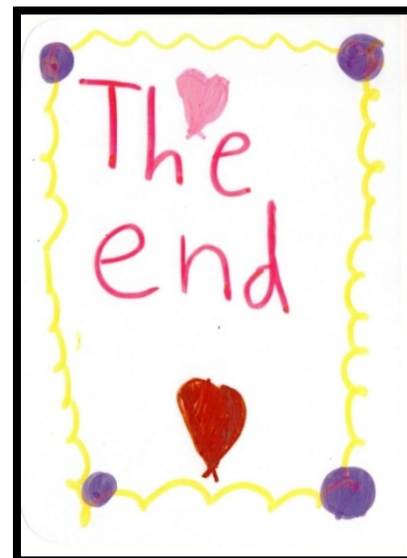
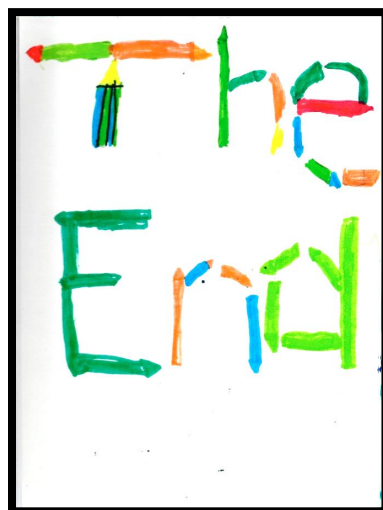
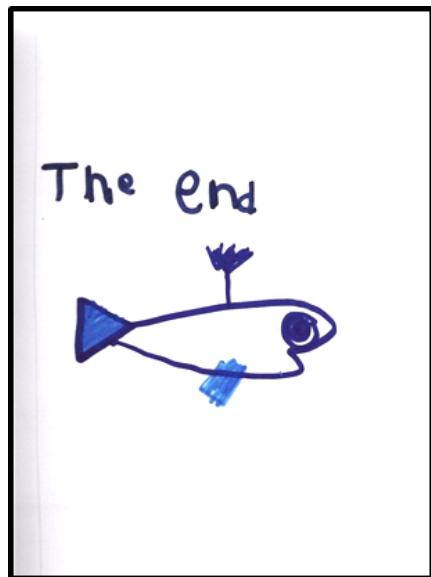


Give ALL students a Talented and Gifted (TAG) writing program!

Young Writers Enjoy Fancying Up Their Last Page
At first, students will need a model, but soon they will write "the end" from memory with good handwriting.

How can you fancy up your page?

The end



**Give kids rhythmic chants to learn writing-to-read
"heart words."**

T-h-e e-n-d. The end!

Scan the QR code to hear this chant.



All kindergartners love to write, draw, and make books!


Kindergarten-friendly handwriting supports the writing process.

Grow Your Kindergarten Writers with Authentic, Proven Units of Study: Also Great for First Grade-Begin the Year!

All students love to write lists, messages, news stories, science journals, and real books—all year long.

Bundle and SAVE Big!

Kindergarten Writing Curriculum Bundle




7 Flexible Units of Study
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We Love Lists!



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Independent Writing Centers
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Authentic K-1 Writing
What does it look like?



A gift of joyful literacy from Nellie Edge

“This bundle gave my kinders the scaffolding and confidence to truly become writers. The ideas are simple yet profound; this product should be required in every kinder classroom.”



M.R. on TPT

Authentic K-1 Handwriting: Build Stamina for Writing Workshop

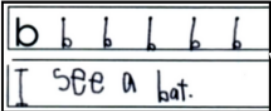
Integrate ABC Phonics, writing-to-read sentences, drawing, and fingerspelling.

Download FREE eBook: [What Does Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting Look Like?](#)

Kindergarten Handwriting & Sentence Writing





Curriculum Bundle



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Kindergarten Handwriting

Teacher's Guide



Sentence writing, drawing, fingerspelling, and word work

NellieEdge.com

Essential Handwriting Lessons

Some Letters Are Tall

Some letters are tall: t, l, f, k, d, h

Some letters are small: a, c, e, i, m, n, o, r, s

Some letters just fall: g, y, j, q, p

And we like them all, all, all!

Original source unknown. Nellie Edge adaptation #2020. Adapted from "Fiddle Buns" by Nellie Edge based on "Big Boy Book" by Nellie Edge.

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Handwriting Practice: Kindergarten & 1st Grade

Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting, Sentence Writing, Fingerspelling, and Word Work



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Kindergarten Handwriting

Accelerate Kindergarten Writing Proficiency

Kindergarten-Friendly Handwriting: Building the Writing Brain

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Language Celebrations • Growth Mindset • Parents as Partners

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Kindergarten Name Writing With Family Practice

My Name Ticket Practice Book

FREE

Kaitlyn

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Your colleagues evaluate this program:

"These lessons are a game changer for my kinders. So engaging and I've seen so much improvement. Wish I would have started these in the Fall!" -Chelsea G.

"This was very helpful to help teach writing. I homeschool my granddaughter and this was a perfect resource with little prep time." -Tamara R.

"Now we ..always start our letters at the top! :) Thank you for another great program." -Chantelle O.

"I had been wanting to get my hands on this resource for a while. So glad it finally came in a digital format. I have used Nellie Edge's resources to teach the alphabet, letter names and sounds. This was a wonderful match up product to reinforce teaching and learning." -Educom K.

"I love everything Nellie Edge! She uses best practices! I love, love, love! Ever since I began using her program, I've seen a huge increase in my students learning." -Jessica H.

"Really great for step by step writing for kids." -Sara B.

"Great activities for my first graders. I used it at the beginning of the year for review." -Andi S.

Thank You for Downloading This Nellie Edge Joyful Literacy Resource



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Kindergarten Writing Curriculum Bundle

7 Units of Study
NellieEdge.com

Kindergarten Handwriting & Sentence Writing Curriculum Bundle

Curriculum Bundle

b b b b b b
I see a bat.

www.NellieEdge.com

Nellie Edge Writing-to-Read Heart Word Curriculum Bundle

a.k.a. kindergarten Sight Word Program

www.NellieEdge.com

Sight Word Play Dough Mats

The BUNDLE
Multisensory Word Work

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