



Success In Reading and Writing: How to Succeed in Shared Writing

Key points to take away:

Shared writing is about holding children's hands through the process of writing, gradually releasing them into independence.

1. *Start with a pre-written sentence (we find this eases teachers into the composition process)*
2. *Model-write the next sentence, while articulating thought processes*
3. *Over the next sentences, move the children from contributing a word or phrase, to composing a sentence of their own. Tell them what each next phrase or clause should be about, and which particular skill/s you would like them to apply*

Have a particular vocabulary, grammar or punctuation skill as a focus, but remember that other skills will be revised as you write.

Shared writing doesn't sit in a vacuum: make sure there has been enough work on both the form / style / skills required, as well as the content.

Remember not to go on for too long! The point of these lessons is to teach children to apply new writing skills *themselves*, so make sure they get the chance to do just that.

Sometimes, you might differentiate your shared writing based on formative assessment.

Always plan to ease the transition between shared writing and the children's own writing. Look at the obstacles that prevent children moving quickly into their writing (such as unsharpened pencils!) and try to remove them.

Questions for you and your team

How confident are you with shared writing? Are you able to model the required grammar within different contexts? What could you do to overcome this if not?

When you begin shared writing, do you feel children know enough about both the form / style in which they should be writing, and the content they should be writing about?



Which of the differentiation models presented in the course appeal the most to you?

Are there particular aspects of the transition from *shared writing* to *children writing for themselves* that might be useful to address in your class?

Putting it into practice

Look at the next English sequence you are planning to teach and consider the place of shared writing.

Check that there has been enough work planned on both the form / style in which children should be writing, and the content they will be writing about.

Think through the grammar and punctuation to be demonstrated during the shared write and anticipate vocabulary that is likely to be helpful.