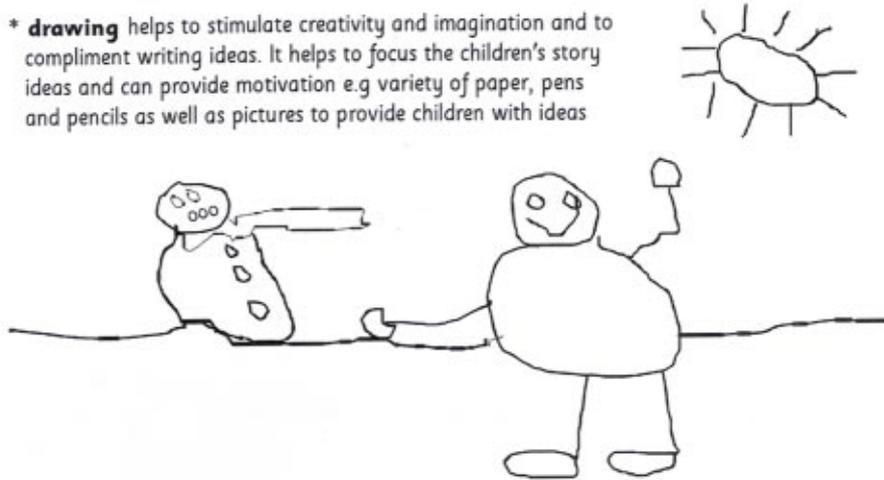


Promoting Children's Writing

It is important for children to take risks and to try out new ideas in their writing. Drawing and illustrating their ideas is enjoyable for most children and gives them a meaningful basis for their writing

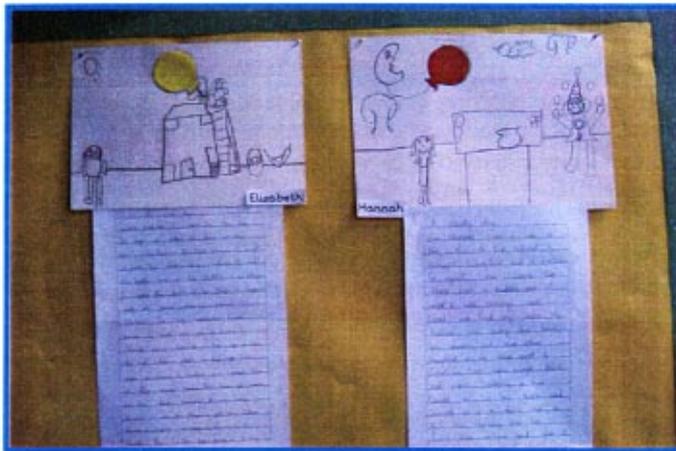
Q What encourages children to express ideas through writing and graphic representation?

- * **whiteboards** and **markers** encourage children to take risks and to experiment with new ideas, in the knowledge that errors or changes can be altered easily. **Chalkboards** and **chalk** are just as useful and are usually a novelty tool for children to use
- * **drawing** helps to stimulate creativity and imagination and to compliment writing ideas. It helps to focus the children's story ideas and can provide motivation e.g variety of paper, pens and pencils as well as pictures to provide children with ideas



- * **talking** to the children about their pictures and drawings and asking them to **explain/describe/share** their ideas helps them to structure their thoughts and ideas in preparation for writing
- * **time to share their ideas** with each other and to discuss their drawings encourages the sharing of ideas and builds on personal and group skills

- * **drawing and writing** alongside the children reinforces the importance of the activity and allows the children to see the teacher as a writer, perhaps experiencing the same problems and successes as they encounter. Foundations of Writing **black line masters** are good for promoting discussion and encouraging children and adults to experiment with different ideas.

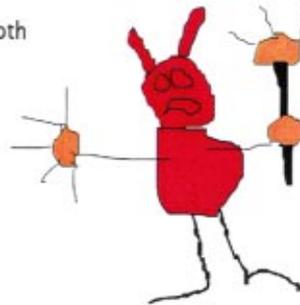


using black line masters for drawing helps encourage ideas

- * **re-drafting writing** as and when appropriate, enables children to see that ideas are not set in stone. Flip charts/large pieces of paper for **class work** is a good resource for jotting down ideas generated through discussion of what is or has been written.
- * **focusing attention on the content** of children's writing helps structure writing and promotes good ideas.
- * **Textease and Clicker Clipart** - the clipart available on both these programs, helps children who find drawing difficult. Pictures can be accessed and/or drawn, then printed and stories typed underneath.



Drawing **before** they write helps children to structure and focus their ideas for writing



Promoting Children's Writing

Supporting children in the writing process is essential in order to build their confidence and enhance their ideas. Support comes in many forms, all of which can be adapted to suit the needs of particular children and classes.

Q How can I support children's ideas about the content and context of their writing?

- * provide **examples of writing** in a variety of forms - posters, leaflets, bills, letters, postcards, labels, envelopes - which reinforces writing in the environment and allows children to be more aware of how and why writing is used all around them
- * **build on what children already know** about stories and the strategies and ideas authors use when they are writing. Using enlarged pieces of children's writing promotes discussion and allows children to recognise the features of good writing.



share ideas and build on what children already know

- * provide children with **'real' opportunities to write** - letters to parents/authors/popstars. posters for their school, invitations to a class party, etc.
- * **highlight a variety of books** by different authors as well as posters, leaflets or cinema booklets etc, promoting books.

Developing Literacy in the Early Years

Developing Literacy in the Early Years

- * encourage children to use **white boards and markers**. Writing is easily changed or added to, while maintaining the flow.
- * encourage children to **focus on beginning, middle and end** sections of their writing and to build on each part. This chunks the writing, particularly creative writing, into smaller **achievable** sections.
- * provide children with opportunities to **edit** their work, individually and/or in pairs, building on their sense of **audience and promoting a sense of achievement**.
- * **writing frames** encourage children to focus on particular parts of their writing and can help to link ideas, **providing a structure** for additional support.



using white boards for writing



display children's writing in a book format

- * **publish** children's writing in a **book format**, designed by the children. Stories and books can be placed in the class library for others to read. This helps provide ideas for other writers and can motivate and stimulate them.



Encouraging children to share and support ideas through paired and small group work promotes a good learning environment.

Developing Literacy in the Early Years

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