



## Big Writing at Law Primary

Talking with your child is a very easy and effective way of encouraging good language and writing skills. You can make a real difference to your child's education by being actively involved in their learning. The ideas in this booklet are linked with the work that your child is doing in school and therefore will help to raise the standard of work that your child produces.



**Big Writing** is a whole school initiative to develop children in to independent and expert writers.

Writing is a major part of the curriculum and along with reading, talking and listening, makes a significant contribution to the development of children as thinkers and learners. Writing involves a set of complex skills that will not develop without structured teaching and practice. In Law Primary School we are using the Ros Wilson approach to writing. It is based on the premise that to write well children need to be able to talk. This approach is based on interactive learning with a focus on four core targets of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (V.C.O.P).

### **Big Talk Early Level**

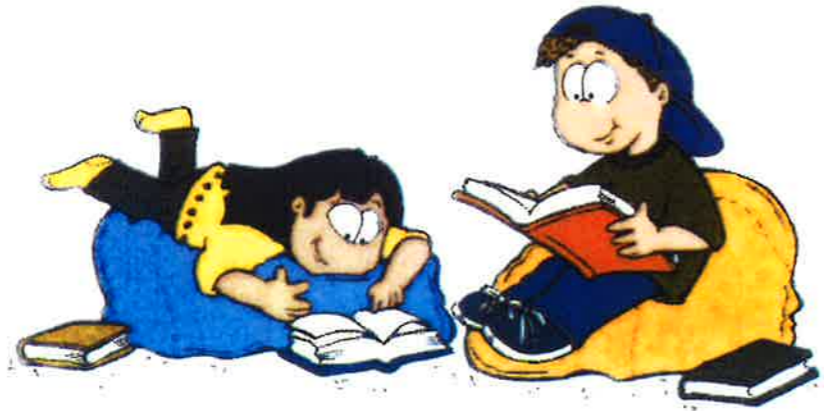
When children are not ready to write they can easily talk the VCOP!  
e.g.



- Adult: Who can say a sentence that begins with when?
- Child: When I walked to school I saw a cat.
- Adult: Who can put a WOW word into that sentence?
- Child: When I strolled to school I saw a cat.
- Adult: Who can add another WOW word?
- Child: When I strolled to school I saw an ENORMOUS cat.

## Reading

During writing lessons, the pupils use a variety of texts to gain more knowledge about how to improve their own writing. Children read to write and write to read. Discuss what your child is reading, encouraging them to recognise and identify the language that other writers use.



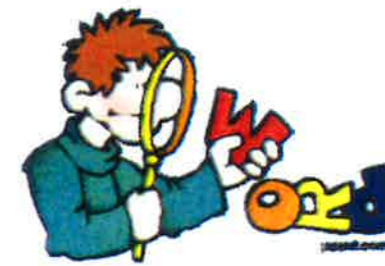
The focus for writing is often introduced the day before to encourage the children to generate ideas. Discussing the topic at home is helpful. Gather everyone in the house together to share and give their opinion on the topic. This will help your child to plan what they might write the next day. Chat only – no need to write anything down.

## What is V.C.O.P. and how can I help?

**Vocabulary** – in this area we promote the use of 'WOW' words. These are words which are ambitious for the children to use. We encourage the children to look for WOW words in their reading of text and we also highlight the fact that WOW words can be found in conversations.

### How can you help:

Read with them and to them. Share WOW words from your own reading and tell them words which you would use in different situations. Ask them to give alternative words to the everyday ones they use.



**Connectives**-these words make sentences longer because they join pieces of information together. The children are aware that there are different levels of connectives therefore they are able to develop their writing appropriately. We ask the children to use connectives at the beginning of sentences so they can be used as sentence openers too.

### How can you help:

Discuss different connectives with your child and match connectives together. For example, which connectives could be used instead of 'and'? Talk about making sentences longer and more interesting by using a range of connectives – not simply 'and/but/because'.



Children are encouraged to...

- Talk about their writing,
- Find exciting words and use these in their writing,
- 'Borrow' exciting words and phrases from other authors: WOW words,
- Have a go at using interesting examples of punctuation,
- Once a week in their classrooms write for an extended period of time,
- Re-read their own writing and find ways to make it better,
- Understand what they need to do next to improve.



We have a high expectation of the use of the core skills of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. We value writing and work hard to achieve high standards from all children, within a positive writing ethos.

Big writing enables us to assess children's writing and provide targets for 'next steps'. The assessment criteria is used across the school and the staff hold moderation sessions where they look at samples of work and affirm the assessments made.

And finally...

- More than anything else, be an enthusiastic audience for the readers, writers, speakers and listeners growing up in your family.
- Encourage them to share their writing. Comment on their writing in ways that are thoughtful but uncritical.
- Make your children feel confident that, as learners, they always have your interest, admiration and support.

