Little People, Big Ideas

Emergent Writing in the Preschool Classroom
Introduction

Hi! We are Gina Vasquez and Anna Lam. We are PreK Teachers at Newton Rayzor Elementary School. We love PreK and we have lots of fun every day!
Write name with materials

Directions:

1. Select from the range of materials provided to create your name as you would have your students write their own name. Be as creative as you want.
2. Once everyone is finished writing their name, we need everyone to walk around to see how their peers represented their name.
3. With everyone back in their seat, we need some volunteers that will give feedback on some of the methods their peers used to represent their name.
Let’s Brainstorm - Why is teaching writing Important?

Reading and writing are closely tied together. Children need to see how writing is important to their daily lives. An increase in technology use has resulted in a decrease in children seeing writing every day.
Let’s Start at the Beginning

What does the research say?

https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2017/emergent-writing

- Practicing name writing
- Model writing
- Writing throughout the day
- Co-created criteria/student feedback
- Parental Involvement
Anchor Charts of Names
Anchor Charts of Names cont’d
Lots of Writing Name Practice opportunities!
Use cut up fonts from magazines

YARN

Magnetic letters in a tin box
Who doesn’t love STAMPS!

Bath time letters are not for bath time anymore!

Save those old gift tissue papers. They are great for strengthening those fine motor muscles!
Use a brush or just your fingers!
BEYOND THE NAME

So the kids feel quite comfortable about writing their name. They’ve even started to learn the names of the letters in their name and now begin to understand that letters are used to make words.

NOW WHAT?

Opportunities, opportunities and more opportunities to write.

“IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME”
The writing command center

Even though writing should be taking place everywhere all the time, there should be a “Writing Command Center”.

A place that houses everything a child might need to write including stuff that we usually don’t use for writing –

Can you think what some of these things could be?

A place where kids get to find and explore different writing media such as crayons, paint, play dough, paper, magnetic letters Etc.

A place where kids get to brainstorm different topics to write about.
WRITING TOOLS...

These are some of the writing tools you might find in your writing center.

What else could we add?
What should I write about?????

Besides including a variety of writing utensils, the writing center should include an IDEAS box!

Anyone can add writing ideas to the IDEA box!
Examples of Modeled and Shared Writing

What are your big plans for Spring Break? (Thicky)

My daddy and I will pick up Cali going to 200 Van Brunt.

I will go to first, get breakfast, then the library, and then to see the aquarium.

After I will go to the shops with my mom and dad.

When I will go home with Brandi

but he is so sleepy.

Dinner - I will play with a transformer robot!

All - My dad gave me the whiteboard and I will go to the circus.

I have a lot of fun.

Fry: I will play Rubble and Arial.

After I go to Annabelle: I will go to

Castle.

What is your costume?

Happy Halloween!

Will you go trick or treat yes / no / maybe?

What is a treat?

Good Morning!

Who has fun weekend plans? Make cookies.

Sofia: my amy and mom are going more fun by getting donuts.

Rose Marie: I will go on a bus to see dinosaur bones.

Avery in the backyard and ride my bicycle.

Annabelle: I will go see my uncle and grandma.

Michael: I will have a Symphony case.

Evan: I will have a FAF.

Evan: I will have a diary.
Examples of Writing Throughout the Day

Dramatic Play – Santa’s Workshop
Writing Outside -- or inside

I can count
1, 2, 3, 4

I can sort.
big ☻ little ☻

I can observe.
👀

Keep the pumpkins
the patch! 🎃.tbl
Writing in the Block Center

My building sketch

I will build a mountain and a house.
Pet Clinic - lots of writing opportunities here.
Writing for a Variety of Purposes
Even more Writing for a Variety of Purposes!

Lost!
Red car. Tell
Akhila if you find it!
More Writing for a Variety of Purposes

What makes Mrs. Paul special?

- She wears pretty long dresses.
- I like her dresses too.
- We will give her tulips.
- She gave me a hug.
- I will give her a flower.
- I want her to be my Mommy.

A picture of children working on a craft project.
End of year shared writing a book

Co-writing books with my students is something we do year round. My students are given the beginning phrase or sentence and they take it from there. In this instance I started the book with “There was once a bird that laid some eggs in a nest…” The kids took it from there.
How we Co-Create Criteria

Children need a target.

Children need to have ownership.

Children need to be held to the standard that was agreed upon as a class community.

Peer feedback is a powerful learning/teaching tool.
How we Teach the Students to Give Feedback

First thing first...

Children need to feel safe both giving and receiving feedback. When children feel safe giving and receiving feedback, they are more likely to take risks because they know that mistakes are ok.
How we Get the Parents on Board!

What are you doing to get parents involved in their children’s writing?

Sending home fun activities that parents can do with their children is a great way to get them involved.

One of the home projects I do every year is send home a research project.

Let’s all share!
Sources:

Engaging Young Writers – Matt Glover
Already Ready – Katie Ray and Matt Glover
NEAYC: Promoting Preschooler’s Emergent Writing

https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2017/emergent-writing