

Talk For Writing

Talk for Writing is a multi-sensory and interactive teaching approach. It enables children of all ages and abilities to learn to write a wide range of story/text types using various methods including, listening to and learning texts and stories, taking part in drama and role-play, drawing and story mapping and collecting words and language strategies. It was developed by the literacy specialist and writer Pie Corbett. Please visit <http://www.piecorbett.org.uk/> for more information. It values the development of speaking and listening skills and highlights their importance in improving children's reading and writing.

It uses high quality model texts to introduce the children to different story/text types which they then learn off by heart. Children have the opportunity to make up their own stories, learn poems off by heart and retell their favourite stories.

Imitation and immersion

The children learn a model text using actions and story maps. The key to success for the children is that they internalise the language structures and text type through repetition and rehearsal. They explore the structure of the narrative and investigate the different characters, settings and events. They also begin to look closely at the

language used and the effect this has on the reader. Children develop 'writing toolkits', deciding what they can take from the text to use in their own writing. While being introduced to the text children benefit from lots of experiences to enrich their learning and develop their understanding. For example while learning about Jack and the Beanstalk they might plant beans, use a story bag to tell the story in groups, learn songs about giants...

Innovation

The children change aspects of the model text using their own ideas. The children work using their toolkits to produce their own version of the model text.

Invention

Children are given the opportunity to plan and write their own story based on the text type they have been learning. They might change the character, setting...

What can you do at home?!

There are lots of ways you can support your child's learning and use some of these ideas at home:

- Read favourite stories again and again until your child can tell them with you.
- Try out some of the things you read about together. If the characters in a story make popcorn, have a go at making popcorn together at home.
- Tell each other stories and encourage your child to tell you their own stories. They don't have to be written down.
- Talk to your child about their favourite book/ author. Why do they like them so much?
- Read books every day and talk about them.
- Learn songs and nursery rhymes and perform them together.
- Make puppets/ story bags with objects to tell stories together.

