

TEACHING ENGLISH WRITING TO CHILDREN: STRATEGIES FOR  
TEACHERS

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the importance of teaching writing to young learners and examines various methods and theories developed by prominent scholars such as Lucy Calkins, Donald Graves, Gordon Wells, and Carol Booth. It highlights the challenges teachers face in teaching writing and suggests strategies to effectively engage young learners. Calkins' Writer's Workshop model, Graves' emphasis on meaningful writing, and other interactive methods, such as storytelling with props, picture prompts, and collaborative writing, are discussed as key approaches to teaching writing. It also explores how creativity and student interest can be fostered through activities like games, digital storytelling, and movement-based exercises.*

**Key words:** *Writing skill, mechanic writing, meaningful writing, interactive methods, games, digital storytelling, Workshop model, independent writing, authentic materials, letter, Running dictation, CVC words*

Writing is the process of using symbols: typically letters and punctuation to communicate thoughts, ideas, or information in a readable form. Writing is essential skill to learn, and teach, as learners can share their ideas by putting them down paper. Many scholars namely, Lucy Calkins, Donald Graves, Gordon Wells, and Carol Booth did deep research on this theme. The aim of their research was to find new ways of teaching writing to young learners. Because, teaching writing is not easy to young children as it seems. Firstly, teachers should make a curriculum to arrange the consequence of their lessons. Secondly, they should search for effective methods to implement in the classroom environment. Thirdly, they should find authentic materials and divide them according to the level of students. Importantly, identifying the skills of the students, and developing through practical materials is the pivotal way to teach writing skill to young learners.

Lucy Calkins is best known for developing the Writer's Workshop model, a framework for teaching writing that emphasizes process, choice, and student voice. Her work is widely used in elementary schools, especially in the U.S. Her Workshop model involves 4 main principles: mini-lessons, independent writing, conferring, and sharing. According to the model of mini-lessons, each session starts with a short, focused lesson on a specific writing skill (like punctuation, story structure, or word choice). In the field of Independent Writing, students spend most of the time writing on topics they choose, which builds motivation and ownership. As for conferring, teachers hold one-on-one conferences with students to provide personalized feedback and support. In Sharing model, students regularly share their writing with peers, which builds a writing community and helps develop confidence and voice .

Donald Graves was a groundbreaking educator and researcher who transformed how writing is taught to young learners. His work revealed that children, even in early grades, have the capacity to write meaningful, expressive texts when given the right environment and support. He believed that students should be treated as real authors, with the ability and the right to express their own ideas through writing. According to his research, he preferred to teach meaningful writing in early ages rather than mechanic writing. In his point of view, with the help of right environment, students can learn meaningful writing. In this case, the role of teachers is essential. Instead of acting as a corrector of errors, the teacher should act as a coach or guide who helps students find their voice and refine their ideas.

Techniques of teaching writing is different according to the learners age, as they can develop their skills when they get older. In early ages, it is recommended to teach writing mechanically. It is essential to begin with writing letters, as students don't know how to write. After teaching letters, students should begin writing CVC words by joining letters. Making this process enjoyable is the task of a teacher. If he could teach them with interactive activities, games, all students get interested in this process, and all of them begin enjoying this task instead of being bored. Therefore, most scholars put first the interest of students in the every field of education. For example, "Running dictation" activity is very enjoyable process to encourage students to write in the spirit of competition. According to the ability of students, the task of this activity will be more. For first graders, it is recommended to use only letters in this process. However, as for fourth graders, teachers can use words, even simple sentences.

In second and third grade, children begin to write more fluently and are ready to develop longer pieces of writing. They can start learning the basic structure of a story, including a beginning, middle, and end. Teachers can introduce the idea of planning before writing, using tools like graphic organizers or simple outlines. Students should have opportunities to write in different genres such as personal narratives, letters, and simple informational pieces. At this stage, teachers can begin introducing the concepts of revision and editing by encouraging students to add more details, change unclear words, and fix basic punctuation. In this stage, students begin to be involved in meaningful writing. They may read a short story, and then they can write a letter to their favourite character. Another meaningful writing activity is writing prompts from pictures. The task of students will be writing a story according to pictures. This activity helps students not only to improve their writing skill but also to encourage descriptive language and creativity.

Teaching young learners to write can be both fun and effective when the methods used are creative and engaging. One way to encourage writing is through storytelling with props or puppets. By using objects or characters, students can create their own stories and then write them down, turning the writing process into an exciting, imaginative activity. Another great method is interactive writing, where teachers and students work together to write a story on the board. The teacher can prompt students for ideas, and everyone contributes, making it a shared, collaborative experience.

Using picture prompts is also highly effective for younger students. By showing them a set of pictures or just one interesting image, students can be inspired to write a story or

description based on what they see. This not only stimulates their creativity but also helps them structure their thoughts. Similarly, wordless picture books offer a fantastic opportunity for students to craft their own stories. With no words to guide them, children are free to interpret the pictures however they wish and write down their narratives, helping them think critically about story structure.

A “writer’s workshop” approach is another way to encourage writing. In this setting, students can choose their own topics to write about, draft their stories, and then share them with others. This method allows students to feel more invested in their writing as they take ownership of their work. Another fun method is writing through movement, where students act out a scene or story before writing about it. The physical activity helps them process ideas and better organize their thoughts, making the writing process feel less abstract.

Incorporating music and rhythm into writing can also be incredibly effective. By using songs or rhymes, students can be inspired to create their own rhyming stories or songs. This method encourages a playful approach to language and helps students develop a sense of rhythm and flow in their writing. For a more modern twist, digital storytelling is a great option. Students can use simple apps or websites to combine text, images, and even voice recordings to create their stories. This makes writing feel more interactive and can capture the attention of students who are interested in technology.

Additionally, incorporating basic word-processing tools or apps tailored to young learners can make the writing process more accessible. Tools like speech-to-text can help children who struggle with traditional writing methods, making it easier for them to express their ideas. Lastly, exposing students to different forms of writing—such as creating lists, writing invitations, or making comic strips—shows them that writing isn't just about stories but is also useful in real-life situations.

In conclusion, teaching how to write to young learners is crucial process. Developing writing skill from early ages can be beneficial for their critical thinking, logical thinking and developing ideas. Implementing writing process into classroom environment requires to engage students with different interactive methods, and games. These methods make children to be interested in process.

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