

Overview of K-2 Writing Skills

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<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/what-do-k-2-writers-need-to-know/>

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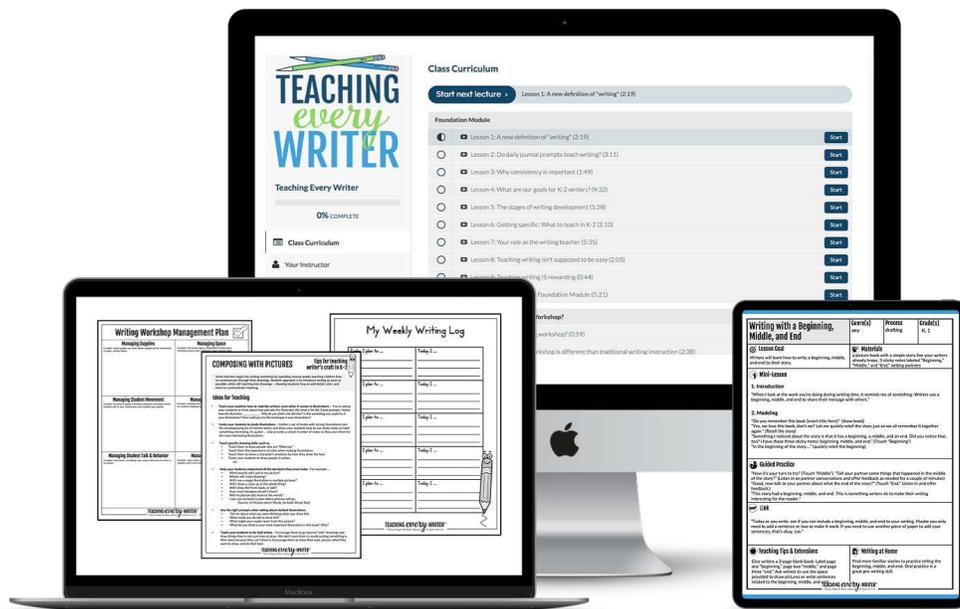
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What do K-2 Writers Need to Know?



ENGAGEMENT

Children in K-2 learn to write for 20-40 minutes at a time. We teach them what to do when they're "stuck" and to talk about their writing with peers and with the teacher. Students learn to solve their own writing problems without interrupting the teacher, and they know when to begin a new piece of writing. As students get older, they learn to set personal goals to improve their writing.

FINDING IDEAS

Children learn various techniques to find their own writing topics.

COMPOSING WITH PICTURES

While all students in K-2 learn to communicate through drawing, we put a stronger emphasis on this skill in the lower grades. Students learn to put specific ideas on paper, to add details to their drawings, and to tell their stories orally while looking at the pictures.

USING DETAILS

Younger students add a single word or sentence to a picture. As children advance, they add dialogue through speech bubbles, add details about characters and setting, and magnify small moments with added details.

WORD CHOICE

Even kindergartners can use onomatopoeia (sound words) in their writing. All students need encouragement to write words that are important to their topic, even if they're hard to spell. As they advance, children can add interjections, use alliteration, and include simple similes and metaphors. We teach our students to vary sentence beginnings and sentence length to improve their writing. As they become more fluent writers, we encourage our students to use specific nouns and strong verbs.

FOCUS & ORGANIZATION

Our students think about the kind of writing they're doing to help them decide how to organize it. We teach them that stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and we typically write about events in the order that they happened. Children learn to listen to mentor texts to find inspiration for writing strong beginnings and endings. As they advance, students learn to add text features to nonfiction, to use transition words, and to write simple paragraphs.

THE WRITING PROCESS

While this will look different across the grade levels, all students can think or talk about what they'll write before they begin. Older students can use graphic organizers to plan their writing. All our students can choose the purpose and audience for their writing. Writers choose the pieces they especially love to fix up and publish. Young students will revise by simply adding a word or moving pages around. Eventually students will learn to take out what they don't need, add more information, and make words stronger or more specific. All students will learn to use a simple editing checklist which gets more advanced as they learn new skills. Children use their best handwriting when they publish their work.

CONVENTIONS & SPELLING

Kindergartners learn to write one or more sentences about a picture. We teach them to put spaces between words, use lowercase letters most of the time, to capitalize sentences, and to end with punctuation. Older students learn more capitalization rules, learn to use commas correctly, and use correct end punctuation. Beginning spellers stretch words to spell the sounds they hear and use alphabet charts to help them. Eventually our students learn to spell sight words correctly and to use many different strategies to spell hard words.

sneak peek

TEACHING *every* WRITER

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