SEVEN STEPS TO WRITING

Using the Seven Steps to make my writing more entertaining

Step 1: Plan for success
Can you map a story on the story map? Can you find a story that begins with the action, slowly builds up the tension and ends on a real high point?

Step 2: Sizzling Starts
Good stories begin when the action starts. They start with some dialogue, start with a BANG! Use humour, make the reader curious or create a moment of change. When you begin this way you capture your readers’ attention.

Step 3: Tightening Tension
Authors use their senses to make the reader feel they are right there. They tell the reader what characters can see, taste, feel, touch and hear.

READIMG WITH YOUR CHILD

BEFORE YOU READ:
⇒ Talk about the cover
⇒ Browse through the book, discussing the illustrations and predicting the storyline or information
⇒ If possible link the events or information to your child’s experiences

DURING READING:
⇒ Talk about the illustrations
⇒ Make predictions about what might come next
⇒ Follow the words with your eye or finger (make note of one to one correspondence between spoken and written words)
⇒ Talk about what has happened
⇒ Make links throughout the text
⇒ Identify familiar letters and words within the text
⇒ Encourage and praise any attempts to read

AFTER READING:
⇒ Retell what happened
⇒ Ask questions eg What did you think about that? What was your favourite part/character? Does this remind you of another book we have read? Have you ever felt like this?
⇒ Discuss any new vocabulary and what it means

LEARNING TO WRITE

Writing
 Begins with fine motor and upper body strength. Build strength in these muscles and practise holding your pencil the correct way. Sometimes using a chunky pencil/crayon or a pencil grip will help develop a good pencil grip.

When beginning to write words:
Stretch the word out and isolate each sound — p….u….p.
Write down what you hear — make sure it is in order.
Say the word out loud as you write each part.
Leave spaces between words.
Start a sentence with a capital letter and end with a full stop.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING
Express an opinion
Speak clearly, audibly and confidently
Retell stories using details and words from stories about WHO WHAT WHEN WHERE WHY
Actively listen and takes turns to speak

JOLLY PHONICS

- Read aloud as often as possible
- Read and re-read favourite picture story books
- Familiarity builds confidence
- Use pictures to give “clues” about the words
- Build knowledge of letters and sounds – encourage your child to identify beginning, middle and end sounds in words
- Build knowledge of sight words (High frequency words “sight words” are the most common words found in texts. These words are learnt through visual memory and not by sounding out)

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