

One Side Guide to.... Talk for Writing



What is Talk for Writing?

At Lake Farm Park we have introduced the use of Talk for Writing in order to support our children's literacy skills.

Talk for Writing is an innovative approach to teaching writing developed by the literacy specialist and writer Pie Corbett (<http://www.piecorbett.org.uk/>). It uses high quality model texts to introduce the children to different story/text types which they then learn off by heart and scrutinise with a writer's critical eye.

They learn the fundamental structures and the process of planning using story maps. They also learn about the key strategies for creating interesting characters and settings and how to use a range of sentence types to create different effects including suspense or adventure.

Talk for Writing has three key phases which work together to develop knowledge, confidence and independence in writing:

- **Phase 1 – Imitation**
- **Phase 2 – Innovation**
- **Phase 3 – Invention**

The Imitation Stage

During this phase the children learn a model text using actions and story maps. The key to success for the children is that they internalise the 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. The classroom becomes a dynamic, interactive resource filled with word ideas, sentence types and language tools collected by the children to use in their stories later.

The Innovation Stage

During this stage the teacher and the children begin to change aspects of the model text using their own ideas. They explore the text using different characters, settings or events and new ideas for descriptive language whilst sticking closely to the underlying structure.

It is during this stage that the children work using their toolkits. The toolkits, based on the features and ingredients of the model text, remind children of the different strategies they could use in their stories and helps them to see the progress they are making.

The Invention Stage

During the invention stage the children plan and write their own story based on the text type they have been learning. They experiment with the ideas and begin to explore their own style of writing using sentence types from the model text.

These very practical key phases will help to build the self-confidence, technical capability and creativity in the children's own writing that they experience when they read the work from a wide variety of authors from many genres.