




Talk for Writing Information for Parents

In September 2023, we adopted the Talk for Writing approach to teaching English. This is a creative, yet rigorous methodology developed by the author Pie Corbett. It is fundamentally based on the key principles of how children learn.

Talk for Writing enables children to imitate orally the key language patterns needed for a particular text type before they try reading and analysing it. Our children further develop these skills through fun activities that help them to rehearse the tune of the language they need. This is followed by shared writing to show them how to craft their writing. Children are finally helped to write in the same style of the shared text.

The process includes three main stages, usually taught over four to five weeks:

<p>Have a go task!</p> 	<p>We begin the teaching and learning process with a 'cold' writing task. This means the children have a go at writing in the text type they will learn about with limited planning. Teachers use this piece of writing to identify strengths and set bespoke class objectives to be taught during the unit of work.</p>
<p>Imitation Let's imitate!</p> 	<p>A model text is introduced and read to the children; together the class learn to tell the story. To help the children remember a multi-sensory approach is used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-A visual story map-Actions-Using an animated, lively expression 

The principle is that if a child can tell a story, they will be able to write a story.

During this first stage we also use a range of drama games to develop an understanding of the story and begin to build up a washing line in our classroom with posters reminding children of the learning journey so far.

Innovation

Let's innovate!



The children explore different ways they could change aspects of the original text, for example changing characters, setting or writing from a different point of view. They then make changes to their story map and orally tell this new story.



Through shared and guided short-burst writing, the children write this new version in manageable sections. During this stage, we teach spelling and grammar in the context of the story.

This stage is very supportive, so children gain confidence and know what they need to do to get better at their writing.

Invention

Let's invent!



Show what you know!

In this final stage, the children use all the skills they have learnt in the unit so far to write an independent 'hot' piece. We call this the 'Show what you know' task.

There is a freedom to draw upon their own ideas, or they can 'hug closely' to the original shared text should they need to. Teachers use this task to assess how much progress the children have made during the unit of work.

Finally, the children present their work by either publishing, presenting or reading out loud to peers to celebrate their successes.

Many schools around the country, which have embedded the Talk for Writing approach, have been successful in raising attainment and improving progress of children's writing. At Brampton we are thoroughly enjoying teaching and learning in this style, and it already is showing how our children are wonderful storytellers.

For more information about Talk for Writing, click on the link below.

<http://www.talk4writing.co.uk/about/>