

Print Referencing in Writing from Adults and Writing with Adults

For emergent literacy learners at Group B and above on the Writing with All Tools Continuum* we should have a focus on print concepts during emergent literacy activities. Writing from adults and writing with adults are both times in the day when you can focus on print referencing to teach students concepts of print.

Writing from Adults: includes morning message, lists, writing notes and other similar activities where the teacher shows students how we use print for real reasons.

Writing with adults: includes predictable chart writing, writing a book together, and other similar activities where students contribute ideas, and the teacher is the scribe.

To include print referencing in these activities, pick one print referencing focus for the week and use it within both activities in the day. Suggested foci are listed below.

*For students at earlier levels on the Writing with All Tools Continuum, the focus is on teaching them that print has meaning, that text is a code for speech and that we write with letters - and we use tools like morning message and predictable chart writing to teach those functions

Print Referencing Focus

<i>Print Concept</i>	<i>Print Referencing (what we do to teach the print concept)</i>
I am learning that we write with letters and words.	Point to the words as you read them.
I am learning that there is one written word for each spoken word.	Count the words on the page and count the spoken words. Talk about how they are the same number.
I am learning that there are long words and short words.	Find the longest word and the shortest word in a sentence. Count the letters.
I am learning that words have syllables.	Count the syllables in words; talk about how longer words often have more syllables.
I am learning about letters and that we think about letters as we write.	Talk about sounds in words as you write. For many students we would have a focus on initial sounds as these are usually the first sounds students hear in words.
I am learning that we write from left to right on the page	Talk about "this is where I start writing" and "I write across the page"

Print Referencing in Writing continued

Print Referencing Focus

<i>Print Concept</i>	<i>Print Referencing (what we do to teach the print concept)</i>
I am learning about punctuation.	Point out the full stop at the end of sentences. If you use question marks and exclamation marks then talk about them too - and why we use them
I am learning about capital (upper case) letters	Talk about them using the words "capital" and "upper case". Students need to learn both. Talk about why you have used them e.g. beginning of sentence, names
I am learning about first and last in print.	Talk about first letter, last letter, first word, last word, first line, last line, etc.
I am learning that we write from top to bottom on the page	As you write, talk about "now I need to go down and write the next line"