



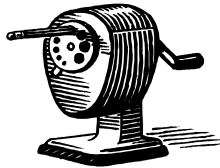
With Pencil in Hand...

by Dianna Bennis

Writing Workshop

When working in classrooms with children, I find that all children can learn to **love** to write. They may say they **hate** to write, but they really don't. They just haven't had that moment of celebrating their writing for a very long time. When you write with young children, they **love** to write! All children think of themselves as writers until we begin to let them know that they can't.

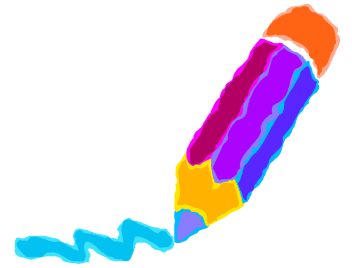
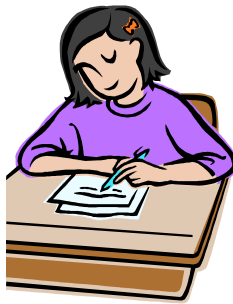
Celebrate! Yes, celebrate even the smallest thing until you begin to give them back their confidence as a writer. Share their stories orally first. Let them talk to a partner about something important that has happened to them, a book or movie, a pet, a sport, find something that they are passionate



about.

Telling a good story should come before writing a good story. **Everyone has a story to tell!**

Instead of reading their writing, let the child discuss the writing he/she has written. What the child wants to do with the story may not be what he/she has down on paper. Celebrate the good ideas that are coming forth! **With pencil in hand, let's begin!**



October 29, 2005

Let's cheer!

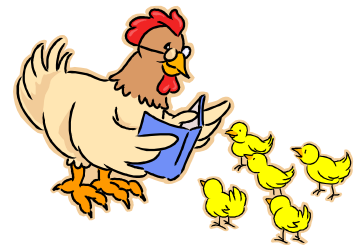
- ☺Read, read, read!
- ☺Write, write, write!
- ☺The more you read, the better you write!
- ☺The more you write, the better you read!

Writing with Children

http://www.bethanyroberts.com/writing_quotes.htm

"**Show don't tell.**" Henry James

If there is one thing that will immediately improve children's writing is "**Show don't tell.**" Help them to see it, hear it, smell it, feel it, taste it...All the senses will help them show what they want to write. Teach them about the "movie" that should be playing in the reader's head. Will your reader be able to **see** what you see when you are writing? Good questions can drive a writer to create mental images with their pencil.



Everyone has a story—
Write yours today!
