

How Can You Help?

- Read with them and to them.
- Share WOW words and discuss how you would use words in different situations.
- Match connectives together. For example, which connectives could be used instead of 'and'.
- Talk about making sentences longer and more interesting.
- Give your child examples of Power Openers.
- Use verbs and adjectives to describe what people are doing and make up a sentence with the verb or adjective at the beginning e.g. Huffily he agreed to complete his homework.
- Make up fun sentences using different forms of punctuation.
- Talk with your child. It is an easy and effective way of encouraging good language and writing skills.

You will be amazed at the improvement in their understanding.

Parents, carers and other family members can and do make a difference to children's education. When parents are actively involved in their children's learning, it has a positive effect on attainment and achievement.

(Learning and Teaching Scotland)

Log on to:

www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk

for useful information on how to support your child in many aspects of school life.

Neilston Primary School

Helpful Hints
for
Big Writing

At Neilston Primary we aim to

- Have a positive writing ethos throughout the school so that the pupils develop confidence and pleasure in writing
- Teach writing through a structured programme with prescribed targets and lesson aims which have been taught from Primary1-7
- Teach writing in a structured way to ensure progression, continuity and consistency
- Link planning, teaching and assessment in every writing lesson in order to raise attainment/achievement in writing throughout the school.

In Neilston Primary we are using an approach to writing which is based on child- centered, interactive learning with a focus on four core targets of Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation (V.C.O.P.)

Throughout the school the children use a variety of texts to gain more knowledge about how to improve their own writing. Children read to write and write to read.

What is V.C.O.P?

V.C.O.P are the four core targets we use to teach writing.

Vocabulary
Connectives
Openers
Punctuation

Vocabulary

In this area we promote the use of WOW words in their writing. These are words which are ambitious for the children to use. We encourage the children to look for WOW words in their reading texts and we also highlight the fact that WOW words can be found in conversations with friends, family or even on TV.

Connectives

Connectives make sentences longer **because** they join pieces of information together. The children are aware that there are different levels of connectives, **therefore** they are able to develop their writing appropriately. We ask the children to use connectives at the beginning of sentences **so** they can be used as sentence openers too.

Openers

There are different ways of opening sentences. Younger children will use words like I/Then/They. We want to encourage the children to think of other words to use. Older children will be introduced to Power Openers. Here we ask the children to use connectives to start sentences. We would develop their skills by showing them how to use words ending with **ly**, **ing** or **ed**.

Punctuation

We show the children different forms of punctuation and give them examples of how to use them. Punctuation is differentiated throughout the levels. The children play lots of games using the Punctuation Pyramid.

