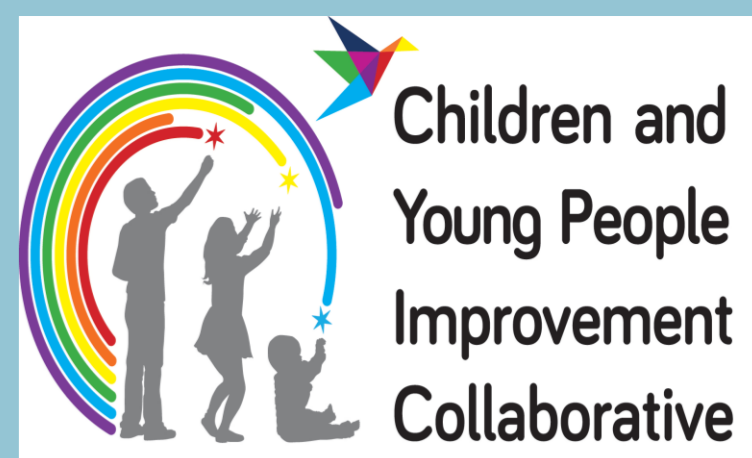


Improving Writing Outcomes for P7 Learners

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Stretch Aim: By June 2022, 90% of P7b Pupils will have achieved Second Level Writing Outcomes (Baseline 83%).

Aim 1: By February 1st 2022, 85% of P7b pupils will be able to use effective conjunctions* within their writing (Baseline 35%).

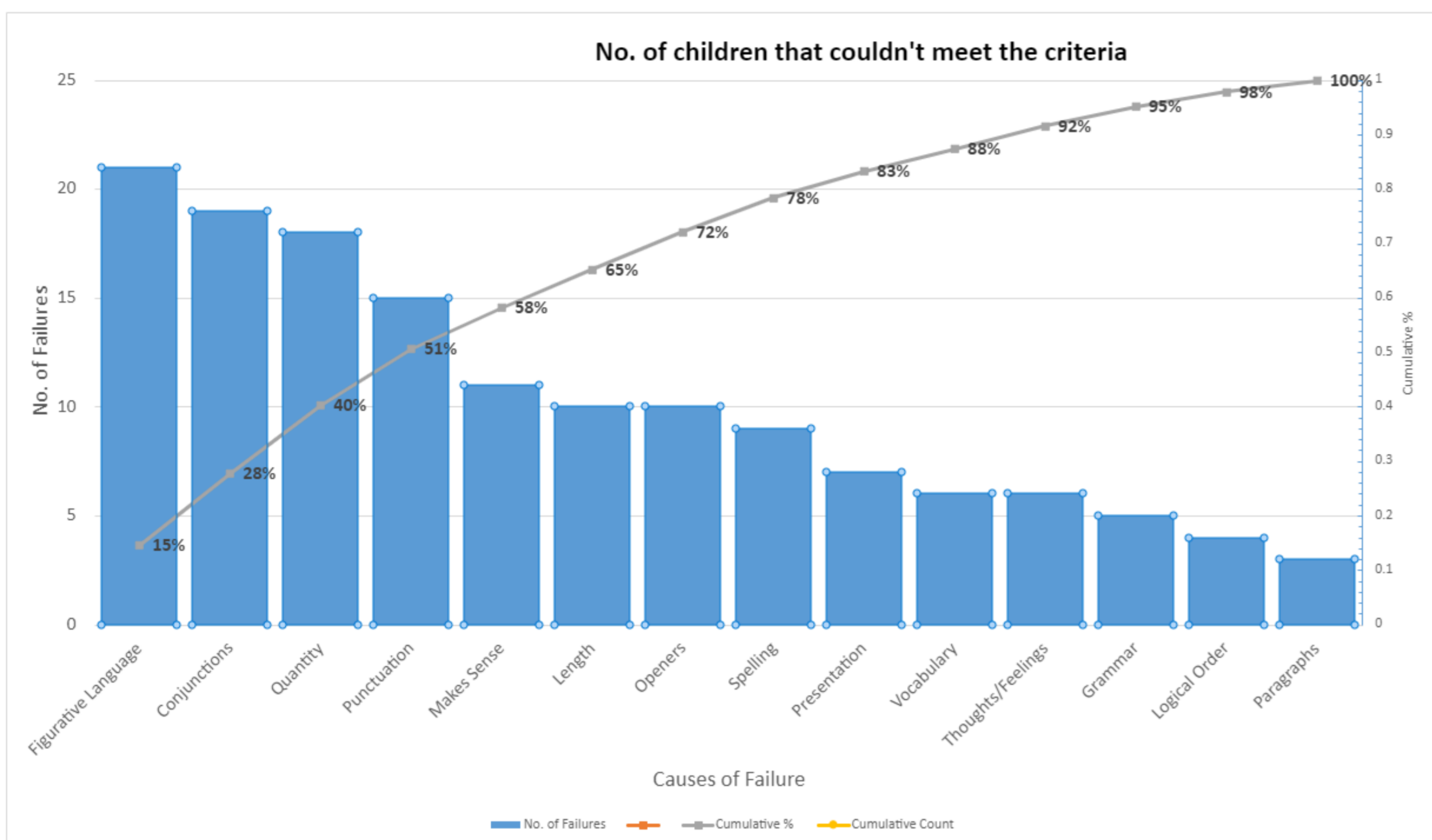
*Children can link sentences with a range of conjunctions from a selection of VCOP supports and displays.

Aim 2: By May 1st 2022, 85% of P7b children will be able to punctuate* their writing properly (baseline 52%).

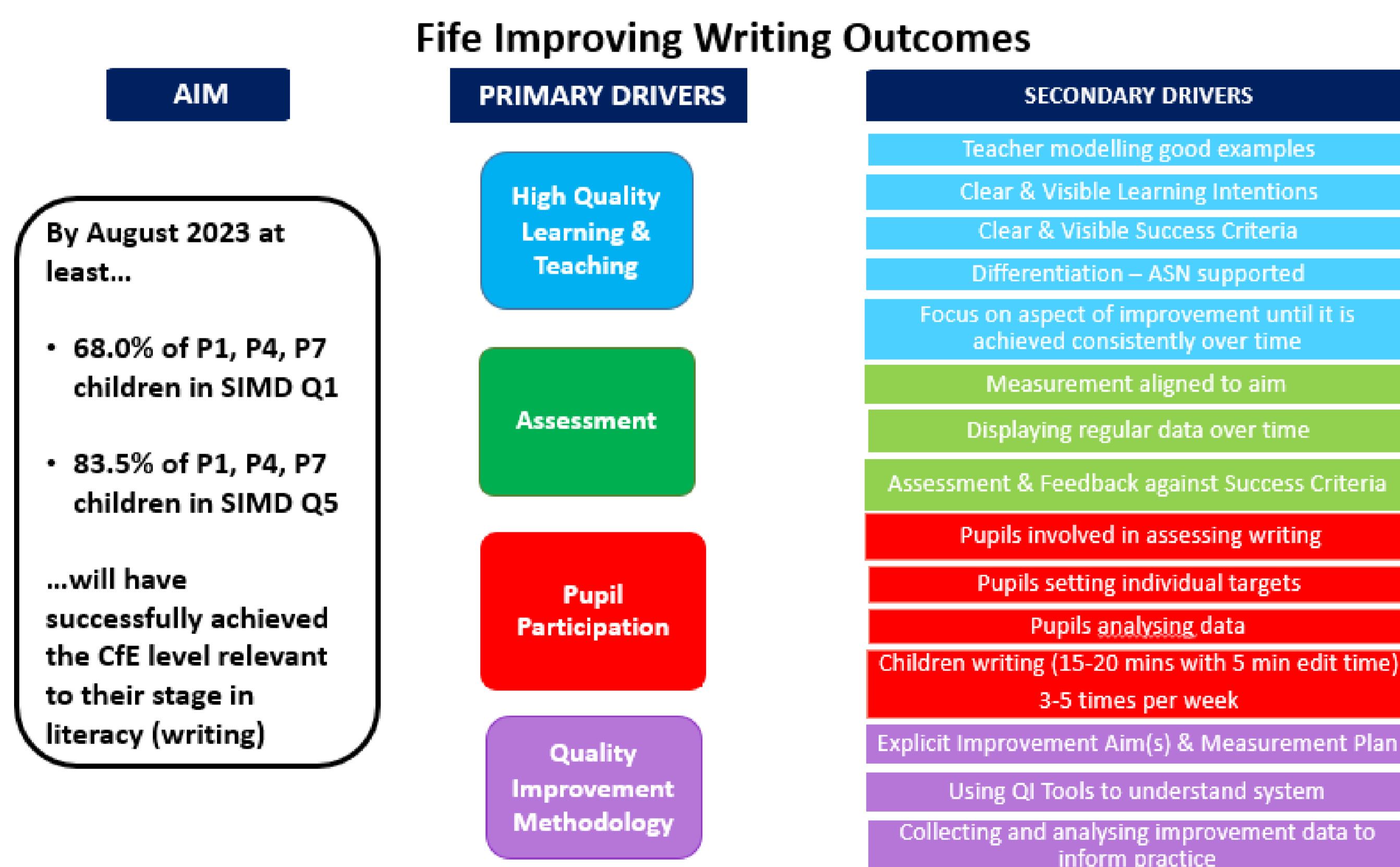
*capital letters, full stops, commas, question marks and exclamation marks (extending to speech marks, colons and semi colons).

Method

- Established an Improvement Team.
- Attended Fife QI Improving Writing Wave 6 Programme.
- Carried out a baseline assessment against benchmark criteria.
- The baseline assessment was used to create a pareto chart.
- The 2nd biggest challenge for the majority of the children was conjunctions. This informed our first improvement aim.



Process Change



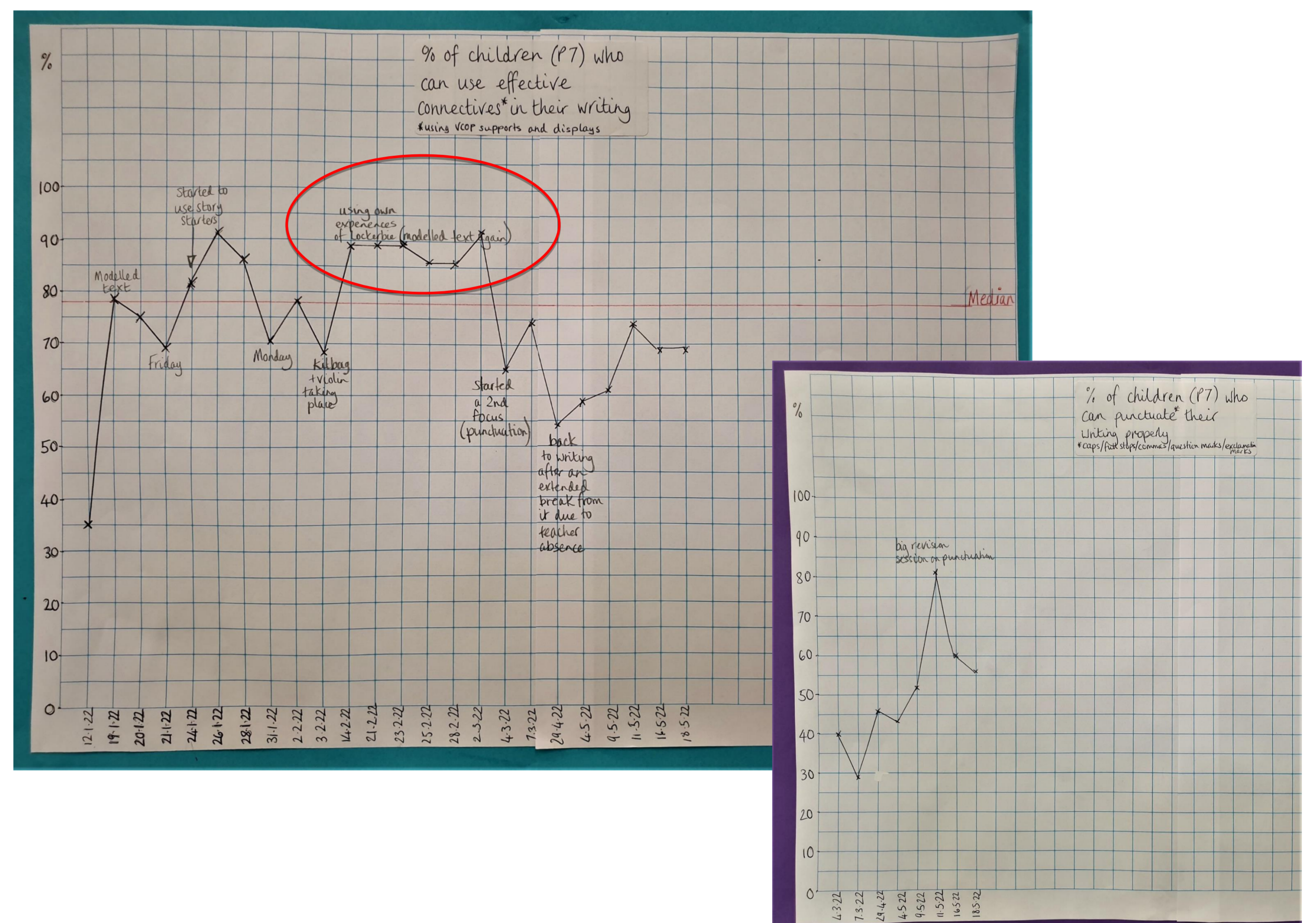
Implement

- Children writing 3-5 times per week.
- Write for 15 mins, 5 mins to edit.
- Teacher input aligned to aim.
- Share Learning Intention and make Success Criteria explicit.
- Assess and feedback against Success Criteria.
- Involve Children in the process!
- 2nd aim (punctuation) introduced.

Achievements

- By May 2022 89.7% of children achieved the stretch aim (baseline 83%). Therefore, 2 pupils that were not on track to achieve 2nd level have done.
- By March 1st 2022 92% of children achieved aim 1 (baseline 35%).
- In a class where several children often froze when attempting writing, they have more regularly achieved in this area.
- We didn't get as much time with aim 2 (punctuation) as planned but there has been some improvement in this area.

Results



Conclusions

An explicit success criteria with examples helped support most children. They were motivated by different story provocations and most enjoyed the timescale of 15 minutes.

Before this, I hated writing but now my hands don't get as sore and I really enjoy it. It's taught me to use better connectives and gave me a better understanding of punctuation. (P7 pupil)

Key Learning Points

- Conjunctions was not a good choice for our first aim – punctuation would have been more valuable. Some children have become so keen to include connectives that they are forgetting to break their writing up into sentences.
- Writers have become increasingly independent (some helped by the use of ICT). Choice has been important with this so they don't feel too restricted – although a story starter/image etc is provided, the children are also allowed to continue a previous story and, more recently, if they have their own story idea, they can use that. This has helped with keeping engagement levels high.
- Writing attainment has improved overall. However, there are areas that we did not focus on as an aim that have not improved so much.
- Consistency and routine are vital – pupils had a break from the writing due to teacher absence/holidays just as they reached a positive and consistent level in their writing. After the break, this didn't really pick up again but there were other term 4 distractions (P7 leaver's activities, transition etc).

Next steps

- Thinking ahead to next year, using the pareto and identifying an aim that will most benefit the children's writing.
- Start the process in term 1 or 2 to ensure the children are getting the most benefit from it that can then be carried forward into their regular writing.