



Pupil Conferencing

Things to remember!

You want to know about the writing.
Parrot back what the child has taught you/told you in their piece.
You want to be taught/ learn something.
Ask questions. Don't tell.
Don't talk more than the writer.
Don't try to redirect the child onto something you find more interesting.
Try not to direct the child onto a different course or subject.
Don't ignore the writer's original intention for the piece.
Don't supply words and phrases that you like.



Conferencing Questions:

Opening questions:

1. How is it going Tom?
2. How can I help you?
3. What do you need from me?
4. What surprised you?
5. What's working?
6. What needs work?
7. What are you writing about now, Jane?
8. Where are you now in your draft, Alison?
9. So, tell me about your piece.
10. How is your piece coming along, Greg?
11. How is your writing going today, Mandy?
12. Where are you in the piece now?
13. How did you happen to get into this piece?



If the child doesn't know what to do or write, ask them to turn their paper over and talk about the original intentions of the piece. The child must lead, the teacher intelligently reacts...

'Following' questions:

These are questions that follow or reflect what the child has already written in their piece. The questions deal with the obvious.

- 1) What isn't going so well?
- 2) What are you going to do with it now?
- 3) How are you going to start?
- 4) What did you have in mind?
- 5) What did you hope to happen here?
- 6) Can you tell me more about.....?
- 7) What made you choose this topic?
- 8) Which part do you like best?
- 9) I can't understand this part. What did you mean?

'Process questions':

These questions are used to help children organise the further direction of the writing.

- 1) What do you think you'll write about next?
- 2) What are you going to do with the piece now?
- 3) Where do you think you'll put this new information in? Can you see where it should go?
- 4) What will you do with this piece when it is all done?
- 5) Convince me that this piece is ready for publishing.
- 6) Why do you think it is good?