



# Dundonald Primary School's Parent Guide to:

# Writing



In all stages, children develop their writing across the curriculum and focus on writing skills every week.

## Tools for Writing

Every child is encouraged to 'up-level' (improve) their writing through the use of V.C.O.P: Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation.

### Vocabulary:

Children should be ambitious with their word choices and think of interesting 'wow words'.

e.g. big = huge, enormous, gigantic; said = whispered, spat, yelled.

### Connectives:

Connectives make sentences longer by joining two sentences (or clauses) together. Sometimes, connectives are referred to as conjunctions.

e.g. and, but, so, because, however, therefore.

Further up the school, children are encouraged to vary their sentence structure and include both long and short sentences in their writing, where appropriate.

### Openers:

Sentences can be opened in a variety of ways. As children progress, they are encouraged to avoid using repetitive openers such as 'I', 'They', 'We' etc.

e.g. Firstly, Then, Meanwhile, Before long, or Often.

### Punctuation:

From P1, children are taught to use capital letters and full stops in their sentences. As children move through the school, they are taught how to use question marks and exclamation mark appropriately to end sentences. Finally, children are taught how to use more complex punctuation within sentences.

e.g. brackets () colon : comma , apostrophe ' hyphen -

## Creating Texts

In the infant stages, children work on fine motor control, letter formation, creating words and sentences and basic sentence structure. They do this through various activities including:

- Emergent writing or free writing
- Storyboards
- Play-Doh
- Sand trays/paint bags
- Handwriting practise

As children's writing skills progress, weekly lessons focus on different genres (types) of writing to develop a variety of skills. These genres include:

- Narrative - any writing that tells a story, whether personal or imaginative.
- Recount - the retelling of something that has happened, focusing on specific people or events.
- Informational - providing detailed information about the way things are or were.
- Instructional - describing exactly how something is done, in sequence, that would ensure that someone else could do it correctly.
- Discursive - presenting an argument using evidence 'for' and 'against' an idea or outcome.
- Persuasive - giving an opinion and trying to influence others to think the same way.
- Explanation - fact based descriptions of events happening, focusing in the 'how' or the 'why' (or both).

Through these genres, children will learn about the features of many types of writing, such as newspapers, recipes, fact files, poetry and diary entries.



We hope you find this parent leaflet helpful.  
We have created other Numeracy and Literacy leaflets to help you when  
supporting your child at home.

