

How is Reading Connected to Writing?

As with reading, writing begins at a very young age. As soon as a child begins to grip a finger, he is forming the coordination and fine motor skills necessary in writing. Incredibly, children begin by scribbling messages and ultimately they are able to communicate meaningful messages. Oral language, oral stories and reading are important building blocks for forming a solid writing foundation.

When a child is exposed consistently to oral reading (or read alouds) and to conversations and stories, he begins to naturally understand how language is put together. Children who have had lots of experiences with printed language, for example, will understand that letters come together to make words and words can be written in a logical sequence to make meaning.



Oral language and books help to build such key literacy concepts as **phonemic awareness***, vocabulary, fluency and

comprehension. All of these are necessary components for good writing.

Here at Roosevelt we honor every child's attempts at writing. We encourage our students to use inventive spelling, the practice of allowing or encouraging beginning readers to write any way they want, but we also encourage them to use familiar/sight words as they are ready. We give our children many opportunities to see us write when we model writing lists, stories, and informational texts as when we write our "Daily News." We understand that writing is an important life long skill and we provide our children many opportunities to draw and write during the school day.

Ways you can help your child at home include:

- read, read, reading,
- telling stories,
- communicating ideas,
- reading out loud as you write,
- having lots of paper and writing tools on hand,
- having your child tell you a story while you write it down,

and by encouraging **all** attempts at writing!

*Phonemic awareness- the ability to focus on the sounds in spoken language.