



Keys to Early Writing

Description: This instructional routine teaches early elementary students basic oral and written expression skills. During professional development, educators learn how to use oral language, visuals, and read-aloud to provide grade-appropriate instruction that can be incorporated during core literacy and subject-area instruction. Adoption of *Keys to Early Writing* across grades K-3 in a school provides a consistent approach to early writing skills as students move from grade to grade that is aligned with the writing requirements of the Common Core. It also provides a foundation for learning the writing skills taught in *Keys to Content Writing* for grades four and above.

Instructional practices in *Keys to Early Writing* address these topics, strategies and skills:

- Early writing developmental stages and Common Core expectations for grades K-3
- The language and literacy connection
- Using read aloud to teach print and writing concepts
- Suggestions for engaging a community of writers: collaboration, opportunities for feedback, student choice
- Suggestions for daily writing using *quick writes*
- How to teach sentence writing, transitions, and basic paragraph structure
- Basic text structures for opinion, informational, and narrative composing
- Stages in the writing process (think & plan, write, revise)
- Strategies for writing from sources
- Writing scaffolds, including sentence, paragraph, and multi-paragraph templates
- Writing Activity Guide (WAG) for planning K-3 writing tasks

Who Should Participate: Grades K-3 teachers, educators who provide support to struggling writers, literacy specialists and coaches, and grades K-3 administrators.

For more information, please contact:

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