

DEVELOPING OF WRITING ABILITY

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Annotation

this article focuses the fact that one of the important part is in English language which is writing. It includes some information about developing of writing skill.

Keywords: writing skills, legible handwriting, written composition, punctuation.

Writing is an extremely complex cognitive activity in which the writer is required to demonstrate control of variables simultaneously. Strong writing skills may enhance students' chances for success. Writing is an essential factor of language. Good writing skills are needed for all the students in order to accomplish their educational and employable requirements [2].

Writing skill, as you know, are among the basic language skills. But of the four language skills, writing is the most difficult. It can be said that writing is nothing but putting down signs and symbols on paper to represent the sounds that we speak. But, as a matter of fact, this is just the first stage in the process of writing. A number of subskills are involved in the skill of writing. The learner has to acquire certain mechanical abilities like forming the letters of the alphabet correctly. Writing words and sentences neatly and legibly leaving space between words, etc., writing in straight lines over the indicated space, using punctuation marks and so on. But this is not all. All this may be termed as mechanics of writing. Effective writing demand much more than this. After acquiring the above mentioned mechanical abilities, a writer also has to think and plan mentally what s/he is going to say and how best s/he can say it.



Writing, like speaking, is also a medium of communication. Writing, however, is a more difficult exercise than speaking. In speaking, the listener is present before us and thus, we can observe his/her reaction and modify our speech accordingly. But in writing, since the reader is not present before us, there is no instant interaction and feedback, and thus we are not in a position to clarify our ideas beyond what we have written. Further, in writing we have to pay greater attention to constructing grammatically correct and meaningful sentences and to organising and presenting our ideas in a sequential, logical and coherent manner. Then only will we be able to express ourselves clearly, precisely and explicitly through our writing.

It is possible for the student to acquire basic language skills that will be used throughout his / her life, with the first teaching process of reading and writing planned correctly and effectively. Writing has always been a painful activity for learners. The fact that the duration of the course is limited and that other activities focused more take place in the language teaching puts this skill to the background. The excuse that the students are not well-equipped to do some writing activities can be counted as the reasons given by the related course teachers. Hence, second language learners constantly struggle to achieve language proficiency; therefore, they find it hard to produce written texts. However, reading materials will set a good model for which they can transfer into their own writing. The goal of this study is to put forward writing skills.

Like reading, the skill of writing also requires acquiring certain experiences and some competencies by the learner to enable him/her to be “ready” for writing. By being “ready” what is meant is that before starting on formal writing, the learners have developed the following abilities/skills:

- 1) eye-hand coordination.
- 2) finger muscle coordination and control,
- 3) visual discrimination (letter perception),
- 4) competence to differentiate between different shapes and forms, and
- 5) directionality-habit of writing from left to right [1].

When the child is mature and ready for writing, he can be given certain specific experiences like drawing, painting, clay-modelling, cutting and pasting for collage etc., in addition to activities like threading beads or stringing leaves together. This should be followed by the making of various



shapes i.e., circles, half-circles, strokes, slanting strokes, connected strokes and so on. All such activities will promote finer muscular control and eye-hand coordination leading to writing readiness.

Activities for developing writing skill

It has already been mentioned that in helping students learn to write, we need to assist them to develop certain sub-skills. There are several activities and games that we help in this regard especially in the early stages. In order to develop writing skills among your students you will have to adopt certain teaching-learning strategies. These strategies are being presented here in the form of a few activities which could be practiced directly or by developing a few supplementary activities on your own. But these activities should be essentially enjoyable so that more interest can be generated.

Developing a legible handwriting

Handwriting is the principal tool of written expression. As such it is obvious that for adequate communication the handwriting used must be legible. Handwriting is formed in school life. You should, therefore, be particular about the handwriting of your students.

To develop a neat and legible handwriting, first of all you should give attention to the way they sit, hold pencil or pen and keep the paper/notebook on which they have to write. A good posture, correct holding of the pencil or pen and free and rhythmical arm and hand movements contribute significantly to a good handwriting [3].

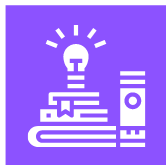
Mechanical Elements of Writing

You have to be careful about the mechanical elements of writing. There is no specific way to teach the mechanical elements of writing. There are a few essential principles which your students must remember. Mechanical elements of writing could be categorised into various parts and some of them are being discussed below:

- 1) punctuation;
- 2) capitalization and titles;
- 3) abbreviations and numbers [1].

Punctuation

Punctuation items are such marks as the comma, the full-stop, the apostrophe, hyphens, quotation marks, the question mark, the colon, the semi-colon, parantheses, and the dash, etc. Writing grammatical sentences makes no



sense, unless your students know where to put a question mark or a colon or a semi-colon. Some exercises are given below to help you teach such marks to the primary grades [1].

In conclusion, discussed, in brief, the importance of writing skills and writing readiness, different activities for developing writing skills, written composition, and correction work and evaluation in writing at elementary grade. While discussing different activities for developing writing skills among the elementary grade students, activities that are meant for correct letter formation, copying the letters, words, etc., developing a neat and legible handwriting, learning to spell correctly and use of dictation were discussed. Being a teacher, how you can solve your day-to-day problem of correcting students' written work had also been attended to by giving some solutions.

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