



Writing Workshop

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What you will learn about today:

- Pre-writing activities
- Progression of children's writing
- How writing is taught
- The importance of basic skills
- Four generic skills to improve writing
- The Punctuation Pyramid
- How you can help!



Pre-writing activities

- In Early Years, many activities done by the children are ones which will help to develop the fine motor skills needed to be able to write.
- These include playing with play dough, painting, paper folding and cutting, playing with puzzles, tracing patterns in sand, colouring, scribbling and many other activities.
- Even activities on play equipment, such as the monkey bars help to develop the necessary skills. Until a child has mastered these, then they are not really considered to be ready for writing.

Pre-writing activities continued

- Emergent writing happens when children naturally begin to include letters in their drawings. Teachers will then be able to encourage these children to move on using 'next step' techniques.
- Children who are unable to write at this stage will tell their teacher what their picture 'says' and the teacher can scribe for the child.

Progression of children's writing

- It is recognised that children progress through six different stages of writing –
- Drawing
- Scribbling
- Invented letters
- Random letters
- Invented spelling
- Common spelling



How writing is taught

- Shared writing – This will follow on from oral work in the English lesson. The teacher will model writing on the Smart board, whiteboard or a flipchart, using shared ideas suggested by the children. This is essential if the teacher wants children to write in a certain type of ‘genre’ such as instructions or a recount.
- Guided writing – This is a key step between whole class and independent writing. The teacher can work with a particular group of children, focusing on their specific needs.
- Independent writing – This is when children are able to write by themselves, but will still follow on from careful planning and discussions.

Basic skills are a must!

- Writing requires four basic skills which need to be embedded. These skills are:
 - 1. Grammar: best taught through talk
 - 2. Handwriting: neat and accurate, plus joined or cursive if possible
 - 3. Spelling: both sight words and use of phonic strategies
 - 4. Accurate use of punctuation and capital letters to show sentence structure, which should also be accurate

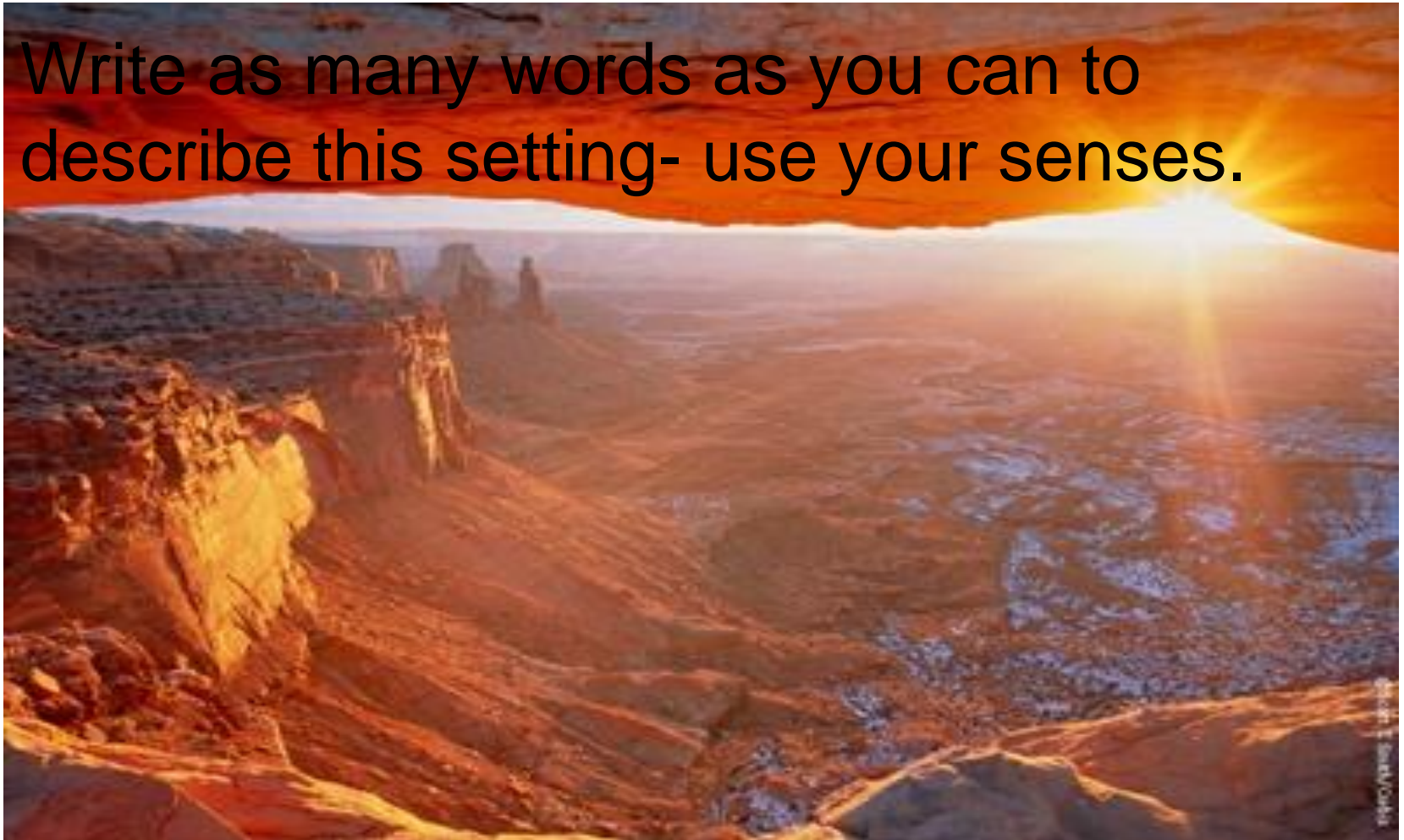
Four generic skills to improve writing

V.C.O.P

- Vocabulary (Very)
- Connectives (Clever)
- Openers (Old)
- Punctuation (People)

VOCABULARY

Write as many words as you can to describe this setting- use your senses.



CONNECTIVES

Choose 3 connectives and write 3 sentences using one in each.

and, but, so, then, because, when, if,
after a while, as well as

OPENERS

There are different ways to open a sentence.

One is: **Although/ as a starter**

E.g. – Although he was late, he walked slowly.

Can you write your own sentence beginning with although?

PUNCTUATION

Write a sentence using 3 different pieces of punctuation from the list below.

“ ” ; , ●●● () ? ● !

The Punctuation Pyramid

