

Writing Top Tips

VCOP

Your child may come home and tell you that they are using VCOP in their writing at school...but what is it? Each letter of **VCOP** stands for an aspect of writing that will help them improve all writing in every subject.

V = Vocabulary (the words used in writing)

For example: instead of using the word 'nice', we could use other more interesting words such as 'beautiful, stunning, fantastic' etc.

C = Connectives (words used to make our sentences longer)

For example: 'however, because, but, so, furthermore, then'. The words can come in the middle or beginning of sentences, e.g. 'The water in the saucer disappeared because ...'

O = Openers (words used to open or begin our sentences)

For example: 'Walking quickly, As I..., Although..., Cautiously...'. There are many more openers. We encourage the children to use a different opener to start each sentence in their writing.

P = Punctuation (the marks we use to help our writing make sense!)

The children will extend their use of punctuation throughout the school to include: Capital letters . , " " - () ; : ? !

When writing at home, it may be useful to check your child's writing using VCOP.

Spelling

When writing, it is important that children feel confident to **have a go** at tricky words and never dodge a word because they cannot spell it. Children often underline words which they are unsure how to spell and dictionaries are provided in every classroom.

When marking, teachers will **only correct 3 spelling words** depending on the child's spelling ability. For example, keywords will always be corrected in the first instance. **Spelling is important but should not prevent a child from writing.**

Children as Readers, Children as Writers

Reading a wide range of books will help to spark children's imagination. By being a 'magpie' and 'stealing' words and ideas, children will have the confidence to imitate and innovate which will develop their confidence when writing. Some children use a Writer's Journal to record their ideas.

You can support your child with their reading by helping them to choose new and different books, and by sharing your interest in whatever they are reading.

Helpful Book Websites

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site>

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children>

<http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk>

Be as helpful as you can in helping children write. Talk through their ideas with them; help them discover what they want to say. Your most effective role is to help your child by encouraging them in developing and writing down their ideas