Foundations to Writing...
What is really important

Writing Foundations
What really matters?

Success is always a balance between...
Learning and/or Communication Demands

Motor Demands

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### Development of Writing

- Teachers write for the children - teachers model lots of writing before they expect children to do it – JUST LIKE READING!!
- Teachers write WITH the children so children can help with the composition
- Then after many such experiences children write themselves
- Many children with cannot not write using conventional means - need alternative pencil

### What Really Matters

- Play and interaction – kiddos build a storyline in play
- Build communication to support writing
- Learn to construct a narrative
- Read good picture books - models storyline
- Modeling of writing essential component
- With their pencil
- Learning the mechanics - errorless
- Authentic writing experiences

### Play and Interaction

Kiddos build a storyline in play
Play is Foundational

- Builds ability to predict and plan
- Tells a story with beginning, middle and end - just like writing
- Chance to learn about the world
- Chance to express own ideas
- Lends itself to communication practice

Let’s Play Tea Party

Build communication to support writing

Learn to construct a narrative
Story Co-Construction

- Retelling a story or sharing an experience is the foundation of a narrative
- Narratives are key component of communication
- Adults model telling a story with their device
- Begin with significant support
- Encourage them to give you pieces – you help weave them together
- Gradually reduce the scaffolding

Creating Narratives

Strategies and How-To's

- Consistently, model story-telling using their device
- Make meaning from their slightest initiation, and extend on it
- Repeat what they say, expand on their idea, and give focused communicative attention
- Ask clarifying questions while being persistent to stay on topic
- Prompt for unshared experiences, and give specific feedback.

Language to Support Retell
Some Months later

- “Let me tell you what I think”
- “Something Happened”
- “It was fun”
- “Navigated to story about Big Green Monster”
- “I read The Big Green Monster”
- Navigated to Family page - SISTER
Read Good Picture Books

Model and Practice Story Retell

Story Book Specific Grids

- Make interacting around book easier
- Need to model story retell
- Chat about books after the fact
- Scaffold and build on story retell
- Lots of practice is needed
- Don’t give up - this is hard
- Create meaning out of anything they say - add
- Facebook Group: Rett Syndrome- Communication and Literacy for preschoolers

The Three Bears
Modeling Of Writing
With their pencil

Ideas for Modeling
- One item from grocery list
- Schedule at school
- Sign cards or artwork
- Write a note to your class or kiddo
- Model writing an idea or sentence
- Fill in a graphic organizer

Learning the Mechanics...
Scribbling: Errorless and Fun!
Errorless is Essential

- Learn the “plan” first
- Learn the “content” second
- Lots of scribbling
- Choose fun ABC songs
- Find first letter of name together!
- Take photos of their writing and keep record

Play with Story Bots

Play with Story Bots

Authentic Writing Experiences

Scribbling to Conventional
What we’ve Learned

- Start with errorless learning to teach the format
- Modeling of their pencil is essential
- Daily practice + Making Words = SUCCESS!
- Access to full alphabet and core words
- Allow for delay in responses - don’t give up
- Check the context with others

FURTHER TRAINING