

## **AGENDA**

# **Supporting Children's Writing** **(Local Information, Your Name, Date)**

### Participant Objectives

In this workshop participants will:

- Gain understanding in how children develop as writers.
- Identify strategies to promote writing throughout the day.
- Explore techniques and materials to encourage children's writing in centers.
- Learn that becoming a competent writer involves knowing and understanding the forms, function and features of writing.
- Understand how writing should be integrated throughout the day and within the environment.

1. Opening Activity: Acrostic Poem
2. Welcome and Logistics
3. Introducing the Topic: Supporting Children's Writing
4. Activity: The Forms and Functions of Writing
5. Discussion
6. Activity: Integrating Writing throughout the Day
7. Discussion
8. Closure

## UNDERSTANDING WRITING

*“Knowledge of the forms and functions of print serves as a foundation from which children become increasingly sensitive to letter shapes, names, sounds, and words” (IRA/NAEYC, 1998, 35)*

### CATEGORIES & STAGES OF WRITING

- Marks & Scribbles
- Drawing
- Scribble Writing
- Letterlike Forms & Individual Letters
- Letter Strings
- Invented Spelling
- Conventional Forms

(\* Morrow, L.M. (2001). *Literacy development in the early years*. Schickedanz, J.A. (1999). *Much more than ABC's*.)

### THE PROCESS OF WRITING

- Writing & reading develop together.
- A writer needs a purpose or reason for writing.
- A writer selects a form for writing.

### SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE

- Print carries meaning.
- Print is a close representation of objects.
- Written messages must correspond with oral language.
- Written symbols have conditions that make them interpretable.
- Letters and words are written in linear fashion.
- Written language is predictable.
- There is a relationship between letter patterns and sound patterns.
- Words have boundaries.

(\* Owocki, G. (1999). *Literacy through play*.)

## Activity: Integrating Writing Experiences Throughout the Day

<b>Arrival/ Circle</b>	
<b>Center Time</b>	
<b>Meals</b>	
<b>Small Group</b>	
<b>Outside</b>	
<b>Music Time</b>	

## **SUGGESTIONS TO SUPPORT WRITING**

- Provide a variety of useful writing and drawing materials in *all centers*. Add new materials to support children's interests.
- Anticipate various emergent forms of writing
- Encourage children to write in their own way
- Ask children to write or dictate stories
- Encourage children to write to one another
- Accept children's additions to your writing
- Display and send home samples of children's writings
- Listen to children "read" their writing
- Make encouraging and specific comments
- Model the usefulness of writing
- Make explicit your strategies while writing
- Notice environmental print
- Encourage children's writing
- Provide opportunities and materials for book making
- Relate meaningful writing experiences to projects/themes
- Create a writing center and vary materials
- Carefully observe children's writing. Knowing where children are in their thinking enables you to support them based on their current levels of development.

