

Revision and Proofreading Helping Children Write

These things help children write:

- Constant rereading their writing attempts
- Talking about their drawings
- Comparing their writing to previous writings
- Discussing words and their spellings
- Confirming words they could already spell in lists
- Having an alphabet referent and picture and word cards present when they write
- Reading their writings to others
- Talking out loud as they write

These things hinder children's writing:

- Alphabetical dictionaries: On a number of occasions children spent between ten to fifteen minutes hunting for words they could not read. On several occasions the words were not present.
- Trying to be accurate at all times: They used a range of resources but lacked the ability to approximate spelling.
- The availability of erasers: Not only did this hinder progress but it also meant that at the conference with the teacher, the teacher was unable to observe errors being made and valuable teaching time was lost.