

## **Shared Writing**

Writing is a strategy for helping children read. Children write so they can read! Getting your ideas on paper – and then reading them is POWERFUL! Children want to read what has come from them. What a motivator! So the more we can get children writing – and then reading what they have written, the better.

### **Why Dictation**

If we wait until children are “skilled” writers before we get them writing, we will lose a golden opportunity. Many young children struggle with printing words. We need to do the printing for them, so they have the opportunity to create their own stories.

Letting beginning writers dictate their ideas or stories to someone who writes what the child has said – word for word. The child might then illustrate the ideas. Or the child might first draw a picture and then tell you about it. Then you write down what the child says.

In addition, older children may want someone to write for them so they can “think aloud” and dictate quickly. Children can dictate lists of words, sentences, or stories.

### **Steps for Shared Writing:**

- Site beside the child at a table or on the floor, so the child can see easily what is being written.
- Tell the child that you will write exactly what he/she tells you to write
- Talk with the child to decide what he/she would like to write about, i.e. listing family members, retelling a story, describing their favorite food
- Write down the child’s exact words in large, well spaced print
- Try to have the child to watch while you write
- Stop occasionally so that either you or the child can read aloud what has been written. The reader should point to the words as they are being read.
- When the child finished dictating, read the whole sample.