

Dear Families,

Every year I hear the same question from families - "How can I help my kid become a better writer?"

Last year I offered 2 workshops for parents to come get some tips and a hands-on experience that would help them support their child(ren) in writing. Many of those parents told me it was helpful but they would like and need ongoing support. This year, I wanted to offer more support in a way where families could access quick tips in a pinch. No sitter. No having to plan. No arguments from children. No leaving the house.

I have been busy creating teaching videos for both children and families that support the writing workshop tenets we hold so closely in Deerfield. These videos will include suggestions and strategies to help your child who might or might not be experiencing problems with writing. Some videos will include accommodations - they work around a child's differences by offering alternate approaches at home and school. Others offer more general tips for creating a safe and thoughtful environment for your writer.

Children in 4A have already been asked to watch "Help! I Have No Stamina" at home and they have all accessed some spelling videos in the classroom as I work with small groups. I monitor their video watching closely and they are only permitted to go on videos that I select for them. Of course I stress the importance of asking a parent/guardian/adult for permission before going on YouTube. Safety and appropriate viewing is always the first priority in my classroom.

I am sending you Part 1 of a series I am creating called "How You Can be an Effective Writing Partner". This 8 and 1/2 minute video will provide you with some basic tips of how to support your child in writing. From the suggestions and strategies described, select those that you and your child think might work best.

I hope you find the series helpful. I am hoping to create more videos for families that will help with other skills as well as learning mindsets. For all of my videos (most of which are for children but could also be a good point of reference for you), you can go to YouTube Gillian Andrews 4A and click on "Uploads".

Feel free to send me a comment here via email or on YouTube and share it with others who might find the videos helpful. I am also sending it via Google Drive in the event you can access the video this way.

My Very Best,
Gillian