

# 5 Things to Know About Helping Students Become Good Writers

Most students today face higher standards in writing. Expectations include writing coherently on a specific topic, expressing opinions logically, persuading others, and backing up ideas with evidence. These requirements are directly related to the skills necessary to succeed through K-12, in post-secondary education, and in the workplace. Here are five things to know about helping students become good writers.

## 1. THE ABILITY TO WRITE WELL IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE ABILITY TO READ WELL.



It's been repeatedly shown that good readers tend to be better writers. Children who read regularly tend to increase their working vocabularies, figure out new words more easily, and improve spelling, all while gaining the experience of how ideas go together to make a good story or argument. Students who do not improve their reading ability over time also tend not to improve their writing skills.

## 2. CHILDREN NEED REGULAR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.



Beginning writers need opportunities to share their ideas without feeling too confined by proper handwriting or correct spelling. Regular opportunities to write down thoughts and ideas signal to a child that writing is a way to communicate with others in his or her own words – not just a way to practice spelling or handwriting.

## 3. GOOD WRITING IS LINKED TO CRITICAL THINKING.



It's not enough to integrate the teaching of writing and reading. Good writers learn from teachers and others who challenge them to think and learn through purposeful writing, reading, and discussion. Students exposed to writers who engage them to think deeply also build the analytical skills necessary for problem-solving in other subjects.

## 4. EXPOSURE TO MANY KINDS OF WRITING HELPS CHILDREN BECOME GOOD READERS AND WRITERS.



No one teaching approach works for all children. Students tend to do better when they read and write about topics that are important to them. Interaction with many different kinds of writing, as well as experiences, helps students better understand the world around them. Allowing children to choose what they read and write about can instill in them a love of reading and a proficiency in writing that last a lifetime.

## 5. CURRICULUM PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPING GOOD WRITERS.



While good teachers and involved parents are the most important keys to shaping good writers, an integrated curriculum that includes differentiated literacy instruction, alignment with the Common Core, intensive intervention for struggling students, and help for English Language Learners can help more students become proficient. Other important curricular factors include age-specific lesson plans and professional development for English Language Arts teachers.

# 5 Ways *Wonders* Helps You Teach Good Writing...Write Here, Write Now

*Wonders* is the powerful collection of literacy resources for grades K-6 that helps teachers and students meet the challenges of higher standards for reading and writing. At its heart is a strong reading-writing connection that enables the continuous development of both skills and prepares students for success in higher grades, college, and career. *Wonders* supports you to build strong writers.

## 1. IF YOU READ ABOUT IT, YOU WRITE ABOUT IT

*Wonders* students read closely and write deeply about what they read. They have access to rich modeling, receive effective, interactive and guided instruction; and gain from encouragement to cite text evidence in their analysis of text.

## 2. REGULAR WRITING PRACTICE USING DYNAMIC TOOLS

*Wonders* emphasizes the six Writing Traits that educators identify as the building blocks of good writing. Using *Writer's Workspace*, a dynamic writing platform, *Wonders* introduces each trait with interactive student models for collaborative discussion, allows students to practice writing online with teacher and peer support or class discussions, and offers additional resources that include Grammar and Writing eBooks and Interactive Graphic Organizers.

## 3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING

*Wonders* students engage in high-order thinking and make text connections using Foldables®, write to integrate ideas, participate in collaborative research and inquiry projects, and demonstrate performance tasks.

## 4. PRACTICE IN MANY TYPES OF WRITING

*Wonders* provides students with first-hand experience, both digitally and on paper, with three essential types of writing. Traits-based and analytical writing are both embedded throughout, and genre-based writing is involved in every unit of *Wonders*, providing opportunities for students to employ a writer's process in multiple genres.

## 5. A CURRICULUM THAT FITS CLASSROOM NEEDS

*Wonders* meets the needs of every student because it is designed to be:

- Connected – An integrated collection of literacy resources provides consistency, clarity, and compatibility, while reinforcing essential lessons across all components.
- Differentiated – Leveled Readers for each grade help students accelerate and “level up.”
- Comprehensive – A family of programs serves diverse learners, so that all students are included.
- Adaptive – Teachers have the flexibility to choose from and apply a broad range of resources based on their specific needs.

