

What Third Graders are Learning in Writing

(Based on the *Grade Expectations for Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities*)

THE WRITING PROCESS

We are learning to:

Pre-write: brainstorm/discuss, diagrams, mapping.

Draft: Use the hand paragraph or painted essay.

Revise: Teacher corrects spelling and mechanics.

Edit/Critique: Teacher conferences with student to make suggestions.

Publish: Rewrite for a presentation to the class, on a bulletin board, or at writer's evenings.

WRITING CONVENTIONS

We are learning to:

- Use capital letters for the beginning of sentences and names
- Write contractions with an apostrophe and common abbreviations with a period
- Use end punctuation correctly in simple sentences (period, question mark, exclamation point)
- Write a variety of complete simple sentences
- Recognize indentations for new paragraphs

SPELLING

We are learning to:

- Identify words that might be misspelled
- Correctly spell grade appropriate, high-frequency words
- Use word patterns to correct spelling
- Correctly spell common homophones

WRITING IN RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

We are learning to:

- Set context using author, title, and one reference to what text is about
- Connect what has been read to prior knowledge and other texts
- State a focus when responding to a given question
- Use prior knowledge, details and references to text to support focus
- Make inferences about content, events, characters, or setting
- Organize ideas using basic transition words
- Have a concluding statement or sentence

REPORT WRITING

We are learning to:

- Group ideas into a beginning, middle and end
- Use basic transition words
- Establish a topic and state a focus
- Include details or information relating to the topic and focus

- Include details for appropriate depth of information (naming, describing)

NARRATIVE WRITING

We are learning to:

- Create a clear, understandable story line with a beginning, middle, and an end
- Use details in our writing
- Identify characters

PROCEDURE WRITING

We are learning to:

- Provide a purpose for the procedure with clear directions
- Use numbering or words to arrange the steps in a logical manner
- Use relevant vocabulary
- Provide a list of materials to be used
- Provide a concluding statement

EXPRESSIVE WRITING

We are learning to:

- Make connections between personal experience and ideas
- Use details to establish a purpose
- Establish a focus when responding to a given question or idea
- Show evidence of individual voice
- Exhibit techniques for reflecting on thoughts or feelings
- Uses poetry as a means for visual imagery and expression