

## Writing Workshop: Mini-Lessons

A mini-lesson generally lasts 5-7 minutes. It is the forum for making a suggestion to the whole class: raising a concern, exploring an issue, modeling a technique, reinforcing a strategy. Strive to choose a teaching point that would benefit the whole class. Therefore, use your observations of what children are needing in their current work as well as the Standards and Benchmarks in writing.

### Mini-Lesson Ideas

#### Procedures

- What students should do when they think they are done?
- Where are the materials/tools needed for WW?
- What to do if you need more paper.
- What to do if you need help and the teacher is conferencing?
- How to come up with a topic for writing.
- Show them how to not hesitate writing about something because they don't know how to draw it. Tell them to draw the best they can.
- Where do I draw my picture and where do I write?
- Show and teach students how to plan/rehearse with their partner.
- Where does my writing go at the end of WW?
- What if I don't like my story and want to start a new one?
- Putting the name and date on your paper.
- Where do we keep our published pieces?

#### Content

- How to stretch out a word to sound it out
- How to label a picture
- Spacing between words
- Adding details (showing, not telling)
- Strong beginning sentences
- Adding emotion
- Adding dialogue
- Using interesting words (nouns, verbs, adjectives)
- Conventions
- Using content vocabulary
- How to end a story

## Content Continued

- Adding more room on the page for writing
- How to use the word wall or alphabet chart for finding words or letters
- Going from one page papers to writing 3 or 5 page booklets
- How to choose a piece that will be revised, edited, and published
- Show them how to revise and think about what needs revision. (Are you revising your words? your content?)
- How to edit
- How to publish
- Using a mentor text to highlight good writing
- How to use transitional words
- How to write a letter
- How to write an invitation
- How to write a recipe
- How to make a list
- Indenting
- How to write a paragraph
- Choosing a 'better' word

\*Modeling is the key to good instruction. Use mentor texts and your own small moments to model good writing. Model and practice procedures until students have them down.