The Writing Pyramid

Word Banks, Symbol Sets/ Devices, and The ALPHABET!

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Concerns Re: Beginning Writing

Writing often focuses mainly on:
- Copying or tracing
- Errorless writing with limited symbol sets (augmented writing)

Beginning writers often do not get the chance to use their AAC devices or full symbol sets (e.g., PODDs) to write AND to write with the full alphabet


ENDURANCE
PLANNING
ORGANIZING
GENERATING
IDEAS
USING MEMORY
EVALUATING
REVISING
SYNTAX
SPELLING
MOTOR PLANNING
PODS
POSTURE

TRANSLATING
Thoughts Requires...

ACCESS to
Vocabulary!!!
Writing Approaches & Tools

What Does Writing Look Like for Students with Significant Disabilities?
(From Write to Talk! Musselwhite & Hanser, 2005)

- Closed, Activity Specific Vocabulary
- Core & Content Vocabulary
- The Alphabet

ALL Students MUST use the alphabet to make progress with learning to read and write.

One Time Only Picture Set

Journalling: Picture Sets
Made in Clicker

Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, Veronica Crotto, Alejandra Gil, Bernardita Cardenas
Alternative: IntelliKeys with Activity Specific Overlays

Try to avoid temporary language!

Which One Would You Vote For?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trash Poem</th>
<th>Trash Poem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Icky</td>
<td>Icky trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sticky</td>
<td>Sticky trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ucky</td>
<td>Ucky mucky yucky trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucky</td>
<td>Love love love love trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I love trash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimal use . . .
‘words from heaven!’
Word Banks with Content Words
Made in Clicker

Word Banks / Temporary Sets

Core + Content Vocabulary

- CORE vocabulary
  - Most common words
  - Permits talking about any topic
  - Stored together rather than by theme

- CONTENT vocabulary
  - Other words that fit into broad themes

WARNING!!
Excessive or prolonged use of closed vocabulary sets can limit students' writing development!!!
Content Writing - Using Device

K-W-L: Fantastic Frog Facts
Sidney, Writing in Science Class, 2/04

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What I KNOW</th>
<th>What I WANT to know</th>
<th>What I LEARNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>What frog?</td>
<td>Frog I like frog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>Live</td>
<td>Eat bug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>Eat</td>
<td>Pond</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student: Fully included 4th grader, 2 switch scanner
Tools: Vanguard cabled to computer writing into Microsoft Word.

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Read to Write: Annotate Books!
Fruit Bats Book from www.tarheelreader.org

Words from AAC Device

sleep want more

Fruit bats like to sleep upside down.

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Light Tech Display Sets
(Maushaft, 2011)

WHAT
A range of light tech displays are available to support language and literacy. They are easy to read, with large fonts and simple designs. They can be used in different settings, such as schools, libraries, and homes. They can be customized to suit the needs of the child.

Print in Companions: The set presents 26 themes (categories) with 36 PICS symbols per page.
http://www.teach-learn.com/products/product-
companions
Sample pages include:
- People
- Food
- Dreman
- Clothes
- Nature
- Body parts

Tab Top Flip Sets: The system includes 10 tab top flip cards, each with 10 tabs. The cards can be customized, and the symbols can be changed according to the child's needs.
Sample category only includes:
- colors
- Numbers
- Shapes
- Action words
- Places

Flip-a-Talk Sets: The set contains 10 Flip-a-Talk picture cards, each with 8 words. The cards can be customized to suit the needs of the child.
http://www.teach-learn.com/products/flip-a-talk

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Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, Veronica Crotto, Alejandra Gil, Bernardita Cardenas
Tab Top Flip Set – Clothing & Core

Flyer on CD
Also in Spanish!

Print ‘n Communicate (Mayer Johnson)

8-Flip Eye Gaze Writing
Musselwhite & Hanser, Write to Talk CD, 2005

Organising vocabulary for autonomous communication AT ANY TIME

Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, Veronica Crotto, Alejandra Gil, Bernardita Cardenas
The Power of 26!

*Using the alphabet is the one way that students can express ANYTHING they want!*

**Composing Using the Alphabet**

Molly Uses the Color Coded Eye Gaze Frame

(Journal entry from the first month)

Kanye West:

FT KAT
Ms. Perry’s Light Tech Sets

- Word Banks (aka, Augmented Writing)
- Core + Content Set
- Full Alphabet

Book Creator or Story Creator app

Daffy Dogs

By Evelyn and Alyssa

- Look at the photo
- Alphabet Flip Book – students pick letter
- Then give 3 word choices + None
- Write their choice
- Pick a partner to record it

Sample Writing Goal

Given daily opportunities to write about self-selected, personally meaningful topics using the appropriate assistive technologies, the student will use both core vocabulary, word banks, and letter-by-letter spelling to generate text.

From: Center for Literacy & Disability Studies website / Deaf Blind Resources

Sample Writing Goal

Yucky

C models Y = yucky

Kooky

A picks K, then ‘kooky’

Cute

Sister models C = cute

Adorable!

E Picks A = adorable
Note: Alphabet = Errorless

I Like Books

- Can rewrite books!!!
- Saves both original & customized
- FREE

Authentic purpose?
Re-do for preschool/ K!

Word Banks: Clicker

My Model
(using student’s device)
I Like Books

Writing Pyramid

He is yikes! Get a book

Alphabet

Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, Veronica Crotto, Alejandra Gil, Bernardita Cardenas
S-cky

Explain Everything – Video!!

• Picked word to change;
• Chose letter C
• Chose NONE
• Chose creepy from 2nd word bank

Fruit bats are cute, furry mammals.
Handout Available At:

http://aacgirls.blogspot.com