



### Teaching Tips

Writing in the early grades focuses on telling stories and/or experiences (narrative). Students learn about prewriting, drafting, editing, and publishing activities. It is important for teachers to teach these skills explicitly and to provide time on a regular basis for practicing writing.

Some suggestions for teaching early writing include:

- Working with students in small groups during the prewriting phase to facilitate their participation and to encourage and support their ideas.
- Encouraging students to keep a “writer’s notebook” with them to jot down ideas, experiences or topics for writing.
- Teaching prewriting, drafting, editing and convention skills explicitly.
- Setting aside a consistent time for daily writing.
- Relating reading and writing experiences.
- Encouraging writing efforts and provide opportunities for students to read their work.

The following list describes some first-grade behaviors which should be taught and reinforced:

### Skills

A first-grader should be able to:

- Form the letters of the alphabet correctly
- Use letters or letter combinations to represent most syllables in words
- Understand that text flows from left to right and from top to bottom
- Leave spaces between words
- Use basic sentence structure
- Use capitals for names and beginning of sentences
- Use correct sentence punctuation
- Use correctly spelled common words

### Meaning

A first-grader should be able to:

- Represent a main idea or topic
- Communicate a story or experience
- Communicate feelings and personal preferences
- Link relationships between events and ideas
- Follow a sequence or unfolding of events and
- Provide a beginning, a middle and an end to a narrative or recount.