

ALPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OLYMPIC WRITING



EVENT IV. Faster, Higher, Stronger: See It, Hear It, Write It.

"Writing is seeing. It is paying attention."

Kate DiCamillo

PURPOSE

Writing about physical details helps children develop skills for more advanced writing and thinking later on. Paying attention to what they see, hear, feel, smell, and taste gives children concrete details that make their writing more interesting and alive, and learning to find and use physical details grows into using examples and other details to develop and support ideas. Making connections between themselves and the world helps them learn to make connections between ideas.

CLASS ACTIVITIES

In class, children will be writing about an injury they received sometime in the past, and they will be writing about everything they noticed with their senses on their way to school or during recess.

AT-HOME ACTIVITY

Spend time outside paying special attention to one of your senses. Make a small accordion book with at least five pages, and write one thing you noticed about that sense on each page of the book. Bring your sense book to school and show it to your teacher for a small reward.

1. Spend 15 minutes outside.
2. Choose just one of your five senses (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, tasting). While you are outside, notice everything you can with that one sense. Keep noticing for the whole time.
3. Make a simple accordion book with at least five pages (instructions below).
4. On each page, write one thing you observed about your chosen sense. You could start each page with words like "I hear . . ." or "It looked like . . ." or "I smelled . . ." Or, use your own words.

To make a simple accordion book,

1. Using a brown paper grocery bag or other large piece of paper, cut a long strip of paper.
2. Fold the paper strip back and forth in equal sections to make an accordion.
3. You can make the book longer by taping on additional paper, if you like.