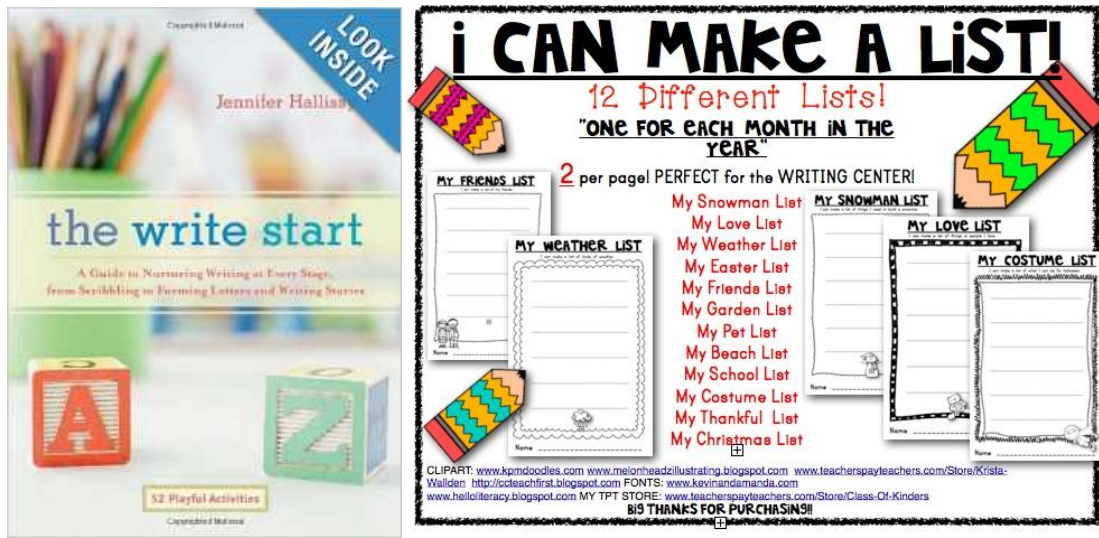


Early Literacy: The Write Idea

“So when does writing start and why? From the first time your baby swipes carrot puree across the high chair tray, then catches your eye as if to say, ‘Look what I did!’ to scribbling, drawing, making squiggles, symbols, and letters, inventing spellings and words, noting numbers, creating tally marks, diagrams, you name it, your child is writing. Writing is making marks that have meaning.” (Hallissy, 2010)



Examples in the classroom:

- Invented spelling: what sounds do you hear?
- handwriting practice: 3 point pencil grip
- name writing: first and last name
- numerals/letter practice: concrete to abstract
- picture stories: drawing with child’s description, teacher often writes words.
- personal narratives: this one time . . .
- “fan fiction”: retelling favorite stories.
- Journals: pictures and invented spelling; moving from few words to whole sentences, to paragraphs.

Connection to Research Articles:

- When the language arts are brought together to achieve some end(s), we call this “integrated language arts.” [This includes] some combination of reading, writing, listening,
- speaking, and viewing [that] are taught together as students pursue interesting
- problems or topics. (CIERA Report, 1999)

- Writing can be taught in isolation, but becomes more effective as an integrated part of the whole curriculum.

What's in the Bag?

1. Put alphabet letters or small objects in a drawstring opaque bag.
2. Have the child close his/her eyes or use a blindfold and allow him/her to feel inside the bag for an object.
3. The child should grasp one object inside the bag and guess what he/she is feeling before removing it from the bag.
4. Kids can double-check their guess by pulling it out.
 - to simplify, keep very few simple objects to start with younger children.
 - to extend for kids who are learning their letters, use magnetic or wooden puzzle piece letters and have them guess with only two in the bag until they learning many letters.
 - for older kids, toss all 26 letters in the bag and challenge them to name them all.