

ABSTRACT

To teach writing in the elementary classroom a teacher needs to find strategies to use with beginning writers. Writer's Workshop is a strategy that can be used to teach the writing process as well as creative writing. With my research question I set out to find: What would be the observed and reported experiences when I incorporate Writer's Workshop into the primary classroom? Writer's Workshop occurred on a daily basis for a set block of time. The children chose topics to write about that were of interest to them. Conferences with individual children were conducted at various stages of the writing process. From these conferences, mini-lessons were formed to address areas of concern.

A writing block of forty minutes was set aside five days a week. The first five weeks of the study focused on phonics instruction and conventions of writing. The writing block began with a mini-lesson, followed by a modeled shared writing of the skill. The writing block concluded with the children practicing the targeted skill. Implementation of Writer's Workshop began during the sixth week of the study. The ultimate goal of Writer's Workshop was to create an atmosphere where all children worked independently through the writing process. The writing process consists of prewriting, writing, sharing/revising, editing, and publishing.

I found Writer's Workshop to be an effective strategy to use in the classroom to teach the conventions of writing and the writing process. The

environment that was created provided students of all abilities the security to take chances in their writing. Student writing data showed that with each writing sample, the number of words increased. Additionally, through daily practice of the conventions of writing, the number of children that used punctuation in their writing increased. Positive student attitudes toward writing in addition to the concrete writing data prove that implementing Writer's Workshop in the primary classroom is a worthwhile endeavor.