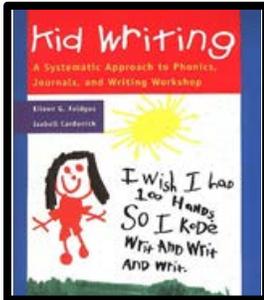


# Growing Engaged and Purposeful Writers in Kindergarten

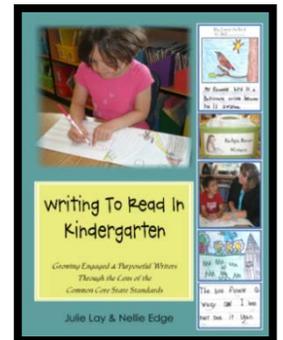
There is no one right way to conduct writing workshops and create a culture of engaged and purposeful writers: The essential ingredients are to bond with children, keep writing real, systematically build skills, provide expert instruction with choice of topic and individual feedback, and let children make "really cool books!"

## We Return to our Most Treasured Writing Resources Again and Again...



Kindergarten teachers have loved using the book *Kid Writing: A Systematic Approach to Phonics, Journals, and Writing Workshop*. The Wright Group, 1999. Teachers describe "kid writing" as the systematic piece that enhances the New Zealand process writing model. We highly recommend this important and award-winning book by Eileen Feldgus and Isabell Cardonick. See [www.kidwriting.com](http://www.kidwriting.com) to view the original "Kid Writing" classroom and order the book. The book is *only* available through this website.

*Writing to Read in Kindergarten: Growing Engaged and Purposeful Writers Through the Lens of the Common Core State Standards*. Julie Lay and Nellie Edge. Nellie Edge Resources, Inc. 2015. Innovative kindergarten teachers Julie Lay and Nellie Edge have collaborated over ten years to present this practical and powerful book which builds from the original "*Kid Writing*" work based on additional study with Eileen Feldgus and Julie's teaching wisdom. Discover how **writing teaches reading** and learn how to **systematically organize** for writing across the curriculum. Includes photos and documentation of writing practices aligned with Common Core State Standards. These are used in tandem with the book described below.

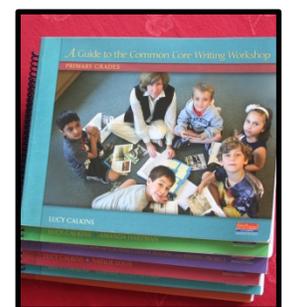


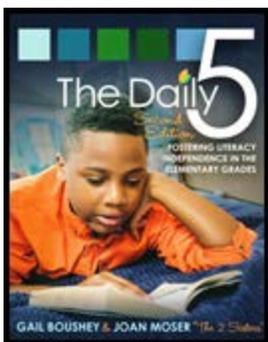
*Kindergarten Writing and The Common Core: Joyful Pathways to the Common Core* (a.k.a. *Writing-to-Read Accelerates Literacy: All Kindergartners Love to Write and Draw*) by Nellie Edge, 2015. What are the 10 High-Impact Practices that master teachers use to create a culture of prolific writers in kindergarten? This practical 350 page book with accompanying CD of 200 writing templates includes ABC and Phonics Immersion, Kindergarten-friendly handwriting (and why it matters), memorable strategies for teaching high-frequency "heart words," independent writing centers, and powerful kindergarten publishing. Differentiated

learning and Parents-as-Partners connections are woven throughout. You will find engaging vignettes of authentic learning and a plethora of student writing and drawing samples: narrative, informational, and opinion writing aligned with the Common Core Standards. These proven strategies enhance all writing workshop models.

*Pathways to Common Core: Accelerating Achievement*, by Lucy Calkins, Mary Ehrenworth and Christopher Lehman. Heinemann, 2012. This brilliantly-written book is a must-read helping us appreciate the incredible opportunity we have to develop a deep thinking curriculum with ambitious expectations for all students.

*Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing - Grade K*, by Lucy Calkins, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Heinemann, 2013. These books represent comprehensive CCSS-aligned units for teaching writing workshop. Lucy Calkins' powerful writing voice speaks to the heart of great writing instruction for all ages based on 35 years of research.





**The Daily 5: Fostering Literacy Independence in the Elementary Grades** by Gail Boushey and Joan Moser, "The 2 Sisters." Stenhouse, 2014.

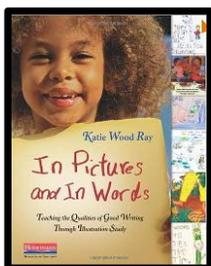
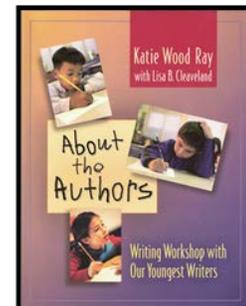
These wise and talented teacher researchers have documented a powerful literacy framework for building independent readers and writers.

*"If you are frustrated because you are spending too much time trying to manage students, and not enough time offering the most rigorous and joyful literacy curriculum possible, then the structure of the Daily Five may be what you are looking for."* See their quality website: [www.thedailycafe.com](http://www.thedailycafe.com)

Excerpts from **About the Authors: Writing Workshop with Our Youngest Writers**, by Katie Wood Ray. Heinemann, 2004.

*"Writing Workshop: A Happy Place Where We Make Stuff*

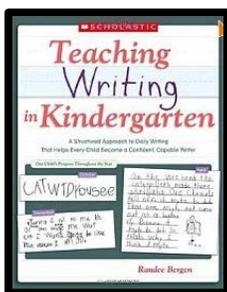
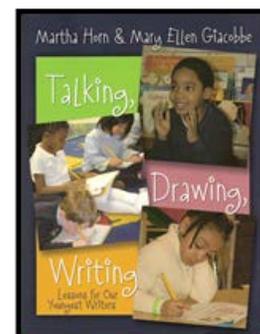
*First, making stuff is developmentally appropriate. Children love to make stuff and to help us make stuff. They love projects. They love to make cookies, build forts, decorate Christmas ornaments, make up games. In writing workshops with young children, we have learned to use this same energy to fuel the writing. We present it to them in just this way: writing workshop will be this time every morning when we get to make stuff, or more specifically, we get to make really cool books."*



Our other favorite insightful book from Katie Wood Ray is **In Pictures and In Words: Teaching the Qualities of Good Writing Through Illustration Study**. Heinemann, 2010. This book is like the icing on the cake for experienced writing teachers who want to incorporate more illustration study and mentor texts into their writing workshop model.

Excerpts from **Talking, Drawing, Writing: Lessons for Our Youngest Writers**, by Martha Horn and Mary Ellen Gieacobbe. Stenhouse, 2007.

*"By telling stories orally, members of the class immediately become known to each other. This self-revelation helps build a climate of respect and a culture where each member is known as "one who..." Carlos has told a story, but more than that, he has been introduced to his classmates as "the one who knows about riding his bike and his scooter." John as the expert at Game Boy, Angelica as one who loves to wear clothes with flowers on them. It is quite possible that some children will learn for the first time that they have something to say..."*



**Teaching Writing in Kindergarten: A Structured Approach to Daily Writing That Helps Every Child Become a Confident, Capable Writer** by Randee Bergen.

Scholastic, 2008. For new kindergarten teachers, this very detailed look at every aspect of beginning writing with a yearlong progression of instruction and dozens of samples of student writing provides much useful information. Written by a real kindergarten teacher with a background in special education, this direct instruction model with high expectations and systematic lessons demonstrates impressive writing results.

**While we believe it is important to give children choices of topics and opportunities for independent bookmaking from early in the year, this is a practical writing resource—especially for use in large diverse classes. Consider reading the chapter on direct whole-group instruction used during the first six weeks of school and the beginning skills children need for success in writing workshop.**

***All children love to write, draw and make books!***