

# **BOYS AND GIRLS:GETTING IT RIGHT FROM THE START**

**MRS E L GOODFELLOW**

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# SESSION 3: TAKING THE PRESSURE OFF

Objectives of the session:

- Understand the importance of telling stories
- Understand the writing process
- Recognise opportunities for mathematical development in home and local environments

# SESSION TIMETABLE

- Ice breaker
- Reading a story
- Writing is more than holding a pencil
- Maths around the home
- Summary of session
- Break

# STORY READING

- Listen and enjoy - Kipper's Toybox
- Research has shown how important it is for children to read and be read to from an early age
- Particularly important for boys as they often prefer non-fiction. In order to be good writers, children need to internalise the pattern of stories.
- All children, but particularly boys, need to be read with or read to by older males, as well as women in the close or extended family.
- Seeing older males reading in their home environment help to motivate children's own reading.
- LOOK AT Q AND A 3 card

# WRITING IS MORE THAN HOLDING A PENCIL

- Fine motor skills develop later in boys than in girls. This has implications for their self-esteem and confidence, particularly when they feel under pressure to write neatly.
- By playing in tea leaves children are able to leave marks. Popping bubble wrap strengthens their pincer grip, catching scarves and bubbles strengthens the muscles in the arms and develops hand-eye co-ordination. All of these movements are a pre-requisite to children holding a writing implement and using it to make marks.
- It is very important for us to provide opportunities indoors and outdoors for the children -especially boys- to explore movement in preparation for writing.
- If we miss out this stage and expect children to write using a pencil before they are physically ready, the 'seeds of boys' underachievement can be sown in Early Years.' (Majory Overy)
- Dough disco and Shonette Bason-Wood (You Tube) [Dough disco](#) - the children are developing skills but in a fun way!
- See handout

# MATHS AROUND THE HOME

- Opportunities all around us to develop mathematical skills. Look at shapes, numbers, patterns all around us.
- Look at hand out - discuss

# SUMMARY

- Parents need to tell and read stories
- Children need to develop listening and storytelling skills
- Writing is more than holding a pencil
- Exploring the many learning opportunities within the home
- Focus for next session - confident communicators
- Take the pressure off - see sheet
- Break