

# Reading and Writing through Inquiry

by

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Many people think that reading and writing are the most difficult skills in language. There are lots of good speakers but they probably are not good writers. This phenomenon seems to be a great deal in this era where most people especially young children are really close to gadgets. This is proven when we ask them to read books they prefer to watch the movie version.

It's true that nowadays reading and writing are the less activity that students, teachers, and parents do at school or at home. This is mainly because speaking, listening and watching are easier and interesting rather than reading and writing. However we cannot neglect the skills in reading and writing since our young generation still needs them for their future. There are some strategies that we can do to make reading and writing more engaging, fun and lovable for children.

## **Strategy 1: Experience themselves**

**First**, make sure that they know the goal of their writing. As adult we should give them clear instruction about what they have to write. As an example, when we ask the kids to make a procedural writing, you can ask them to experience what they are going to write. "Today we are going to make a map". **Second**, In order to create the map, give them clear direction about what is the map all about, "We are going to make a map from your class to the playground". When children understand clearly about their goal they can portray the map in their mind. **Third**, guide them to make clear direction by experiencing the path from their classroom to the playground, "Now we are going to go to the playground and while we are doing that we will record our path". Along the way the student will make a record about the direction such as "Walk 10 steps and turn to the left". Soon they arrive at playground they already have a procedural writing which is a map direction.

## **Strategy 2: Involvement**

Reading and writing can be an exciting activity if pupils become part of the process. We can set up a story such as fairy tales and give them a worksheet which is the story itself. However we can set it up like a quiz so there will be number one to ten. Each number contains one sentence from the story and we can make some parts blank to be filled while they are listening to the story. On the other hand in order to make their worksheet filled they will read along the story to find the missing words.

## **Strategy 3: Symbol Hunt**

Young children really love to play and discover something. Therefore in introducing fun reading we can challenge them by giving them opportunity to discover the whole part of the story. This strategy can be started with giving them the symbols for all the alphabets. Then give them story, which in some parts are replaced with the symbols. Then ask them to finish the story and share it with their friends. Without us realizing it, when we give the children this activity they will do it for fun because they love the challenge, they want to be number one to finish the story and they want to share it with their friends. It's the nature of children

As the bottom line, **to make our children love reading and writing we should be able to bring the activity to their world. It is no longer about like it or not but it's more about how we understand their world and challenge them with their capacity.**