



# Writing by Design<sup>®</sup>

## Unit One

Dear Parents,

I am excited to share the fun of writing with your child. During writing instruction this year, your child will have many opportunities to share stories and ideas. As a class, we will spend approximately thirty minutes each day in a variety of writing activities, such as:

1. Modeled Writing, where the teacher models the thinking and writing
2. Shared Writing, where the teacher writes while the students provide some input
3. Interactive Writing, where the teacher and students write together
4. Independent Writing, where the students write on their own, using resources in the room.

Through these activities, your child will learn that their thoughts can be expressed through drawings and sentences. Our writing instruction will be divided into 5 units, each with a different focus. At the beginning of each unit, I will send home a brief letter to make parents aware of our focus for the coming weeks and also to provide suggestions on how you can support your child's learning at home.

In our first unit, we will use pictures and tracings to help students understand that pictures tell a story. Students will also learn about concepts of print and that writing is done left to right and top to bottom. They will learn to be active listeners and how to share their learning with a classmate. In addition, students will learn how to speak in front of the class and the process of giving feedback to another student.

### **Ideas for Home Support**

1. Have your child draw pictures and share what they drew. Don't be concerned if your child's drawing is mostly scribbling. This is a developmental starting point for writing. Whatever the stage of your child's drawings, have them talk about what they drew and ask questions that require more details. Begin to have your child share their thoughts in complete sentences.
2. Show your child an interesting photo or image. Ask them to share what they think is happening in the photo.
3. Read a picture book to your child and stop along the way to have them make predictions of what might happen next. Point to the words as you read so your child understands the directionality of the written language.

Thank you for your support!