Themed Writing With Alternative Pencils
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Themed Writing with Alternative Pencils is a program geared towards:

- Students who are unable to direct a writing tool (pencil, keyboard) independently.
- Students who are unable to generate text independently (word, sentence, paragraphs, etc.)
- Students who can copy or trace, but are unable to read what they have written.
- Students who mainly use symbol based instruction for academic lessons and have limited phonemic awareness skills.
- Students who have moderate to severe cognitive/language delays and a wide range of physical disabilities.
In the beginning:

- We wanted to create a symbol based writing program based on what we already knew about Emergent Literacy.

  - Children learn about literacy when they are actively engaged.
  - Children learn about literacy through real life experiences & interactions.
  - Emergent literacy behaviors are fleeting and variable depending on text, task, and environment.
  - Reading, writing, speaking, listening all develop concurrently.

Oral and Written Language Development

(Koppenhaver, Coleman, Kaiman & Yoder, 1991. Adapted from Teale & Sulzby, 1989)
One Pencil was not enough...

- Pixwriter
- Classroom suite
- ActiveInspire/Interactive White Board
- Word and PowerPoint
- Alternative Keyboards and Peripherals
  - Intellikeys
  - OnScreen Keyboard
  - Big Keys
  - Switch Adapted mouse
  - Swifty
To introduce our new unit, a social story was developed to teach Why We Write

- To Show What We Know
- To Tell What We Think
- To Help Us Remember
To Show What We Know

• We know things because we can
  »See it
  »Feel it
  »Smell it
  »Hear it
  »Taste it
To Show What We Think

- We write to tell others
  - What we like and enjoy doing
  - What we don’t like
  - How we feel
To Help Us Remember

• This one is one of the most important concepts as we all need a little help now and then.

What is my class schedule?
What do I need to get at the grocery store?
When are all of my friends and relatives birthdays?
How do I make this recipe?
What do I pack for school?
In the End,

- Our students are engaged and excited during every Writing Wednesday lesson.
- Students are demonstrating increased independence when generating simple sentences, with meaningful text.
- A variety of professionals are able to successfully collaborate to work on student’s goals and objectives (OT, Speech, EC teacher).
- Most importantly, the lessons are just plain FUN!
We would like to thank the UNC Center for Literacy and Disability Studies. Many of our ideas are based upon their work.