

Keys to Early Writing

.... a professional development course for K-2 educators!

Would you like to learn evidence-based instructional practices for teaching foundational writing skills? This course is just what you need!

The course covers these topics:

- Writing Basics
- Engage a Community of Writers
- Writing Process
- Structure for the Three Types of Writing
- First Steps: Drawing, Labels, Lists
- Syntax, Sentences
- Paragraph Writing
- Writing from Sources



This practical course provides the background knowledge needed to teach all the components of beginning writing instruction. The instructional practices are developmentally appropriate for children in grades K-2. They are designed to easily transfer to classroom lessons and can be integrated with any writing curriculum or published writing program. The course is tightly aligned with state literacy standards.

The full course takes approximately 12 hours (2 days) to complete and includes a training manual. View the course outline on the next page.

How can educators access the course?

Option 1 – Live Training: Participate in training delivered by Keys to Literacy trainers using a virtual-live format (using Zoom meeting software) or onsite at your school district.

Option 2 – Online Course (coming Spring 2023): A companion *Keys to Early Writing* online course is available that covers the same content as live training. Take it as an asynchronous course, or use a hybrid-online format that includes virtual live facilitated meetings.



Contact Keys to Literacy to learn more:

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Keys to Early Writing

Writing Basics

- Instructional framework – multiple components
- The “Writing Rope” and the “Not So Simple View of Writing”
- Research: What do we know about K-2 writing?
- Gradual release model and explicit instruction

Engage a Community of Writers

- Writing environment
- Oral language – the foundation for writing
- Daily opportunities to write
- Writing lesson routine

The Writing Process

- Think, Plan, Write, Revise
- Collaboration
- Conferencing and feedback

Writing Craft & Structure

- Using mentor text to teach writing craft & structure
- Structures and scaffolds for the 3 types of writing
 - Informational
 - Opinion
 - Narrative

First Steps – Drawing, Labels, Lists

- Drawing, oral rehearsal, dictation
- Explicit instruction and mentor text for drawing
- Labels & lists
- Linking to spelling and handwriting

Syntax, Sentences

- Role of sentences in text, syntactic awareness
- Sentence basics, sentence parts
- Four types of sentences
- Developing syntactic awareness: scrambles, elaboration, sentence combining

Paragraph Writing

- Paragraph structure
- Paragraph practice activities
- Scaffolds for writing paragraphs, templates
- Types of paragraphs (description, sequence, cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution)
- Transition words and phrases

Writing from Sources

- Prompts: Writing about content
- Shared beginning research and writing projects
- Writing from sources: practice examples

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