



*Professional Learning Module*  
*Emergent Writing for Early Learners*

## Connecting Writing Materials to the Writing Framework

**Conceptual Knowledge** – functions of writing, i.e., writing has a purpose and print is meaningful (communicates ideas, stories, and facts). For example, a red street sign says STOP and the letters under the yellow arch spell McDonald's. Children recognize that certain symbols, logos and markings have specific meanings.

Materials could include:

- Street signs from construction play
- Environmental Print matching card game
- Management Chart – use pictures or icons to denote charts around the room



**Procedural Knowledge** – mechanics of letter and word writing and includes spelling and gaining alphabet knowledge. Learning the alphabet code (how to form letters and the sounds associated with each letter) is an essential component of gaining procedural knowledge. Children benefit from having multiple opportunities throughout the day to develop fine motor skills and finger dexterity using a variety of manipulatives and writing implements.

- Variety of writing materials – graph paper, pads, colors, textures, multiple sizes
- Multiple sizes of pencils and writing implements (fat pencils, chalk, color pencils, etc.) Remember to notice children's grasp when they are eating.
- Small pencil sharpeners
- Letter and Numeral Cards
- Children's name cards
- Tape, scissors, stapler, hole punch
- Puppets, gloves, mittens, (finger coordination)
- Squish balls, clay (harder than playdough and will get soft the more they play with it) builds muscle strength in children's hands
- Small linking cubes
- Shoe string, ribbon, yarn for tying
- Shoe tying board
- Sewing cards
- Shape parquetry blocks for tracing

**Generative knowledge** – children's abilities to write phrases and sentences that convey meaning. It is the ability to translate thoughts into writing. Early learning educators support children as they learn to express themselves orally and experiment with different forms of written communication, such as composing a story, writing notes, creating lists, and taking messages. Children can dictate words, phrases, or sentences that an adult can record on paper, or they can share ideas for group writing.

- Clip Board (taking surveys for math, etc.)
- Small tri-fold display board ("Post-it" or Author's Chair)
- Class notebook for journaling
- Storybook characters, animals, objects to encourage story writing
- Picture cards
- Books