

Review

Assessing writing

News writing involves a constant need for self-editing. Reporters have certain goals and deadlines, as well as word counts. So it is possible in this type of writing to make the assessment a part of the excitement of shaping up both children's writing and their expertise at the job. It is also often a collaborative exercise, so children will find this a good opportunity to share in the assessment of each other's work.

Self review and Peer review

Photocopiable page 45 'Self review' provides some questions for the children to consider when reflecting on their own work, and will focus their attention on particular features of a news story. Encourage them to complete a copy of the sheet for each story they write, so they can see how their writing is progressing.

Having written a number of stories, the children could look at refining one in the light of what they have done well in another. If, for example, they used quotes well in one story but another had a better opening sentence, they could combine these elements in improving one of the stories.

A good news story satisfies the reader's curiosity. The 'Peer review' activity on photocopiable page 46 allows children to swap stories and check that four of the reader's key questions have been covered in the writing. This could be done as a shared task, working in pairs to look together at a story, or swapping stories with one another first and then completing the sheet individually.

Teacher review

The Assessing Pupil's Progress approach provides a means of regularly reviewing children's work against national standards. In writing, the assessment focus is based on the National Curriculum Programmes of Study, and the level descriptions provide a detailed assessment framework to assess teaching and learning in all aspects of writing.

Carrying out an overall review of each child's progress and attainment will enable you to evaluate the progress children make towards specific learning goals, set group and individual learning targets, and ensure the next steps are planned at an appropriate level. The review may also highlight gaps in teaching and learning.

Use the table on photocopiable page 47 'Teacher review' to assess children's progress and attainment at the end of a unit. It enables you to relate a child's finished piece of writing to the Assessing Pupil's Progress guidelines for writing. The indicators will help you judge which level the child is closest to in each Assessment Focus (AF).