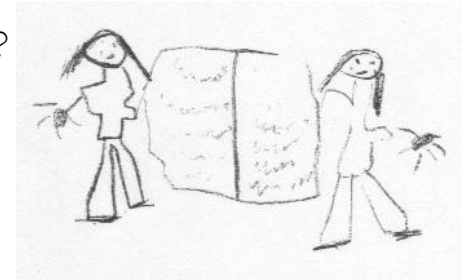


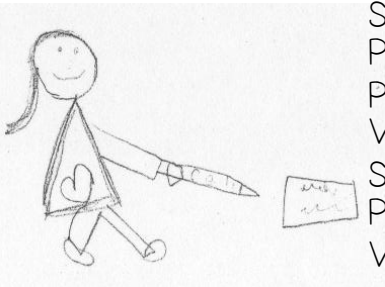
Developing Written Language Communicating Ideas

What do children need to understand about writing?

1. Print holds meaningful ideas
whatever I say, I can write.
print is speech written down
writing can help us remember ideas
2. Print holds unchanging messages
once you write it down, the message does not change
The words say the same thing today as they will tomorrow
3. Print is independent of its surrounding
McDonald's is McDonald's if it is written in red and yellow or
green and purple
4. There are rules for writing that are learned over time



Sounds that we hear are represented by letters
Pictures match the text
Print flows left to right, top to bottom
Words are separated by spaces
Sentences are made up of a complete thought.
Punctuation is important to establish meaning
Writing looks different in different forms –
lists, labels, letters, articles, stories, poems



Written language develops very much like oral language.

We immerse babies in language.

We expect them to learn to talk.

We repeat back sounds they make, reinforcing their effort.

We honor their intention and respect what they do say –

When a child says “Me go!” We honor their intention by saying
“That’s right, you’re going to the store!”

We need to do the same thing for writing:

Immerse children in writing – point it out, find opportunities to let
them see you writing

Expect children to learn to write

Maintain a safe environment where you honor their intention and value
their attempts to draw and write.