

Literacy at Home: Predictable Chart Writing

WHAT IS IT?

A series of shared writing activities with lots of opportunities to work on early literacy skills.

There are four activities provided:

1. Write sentences
2. Re-read sentences
3. Cut up sentences
4. Make a book



Usually it makes the most sense to do one activity each day for four days, though it's okay if you don't get through them all.

GOALS:

- Develop early literacy skills - understand that sentences are made of words and that we read from left to right, recognize letters/sight words, demonstrate phonological awareness
- Use communication system and make choices

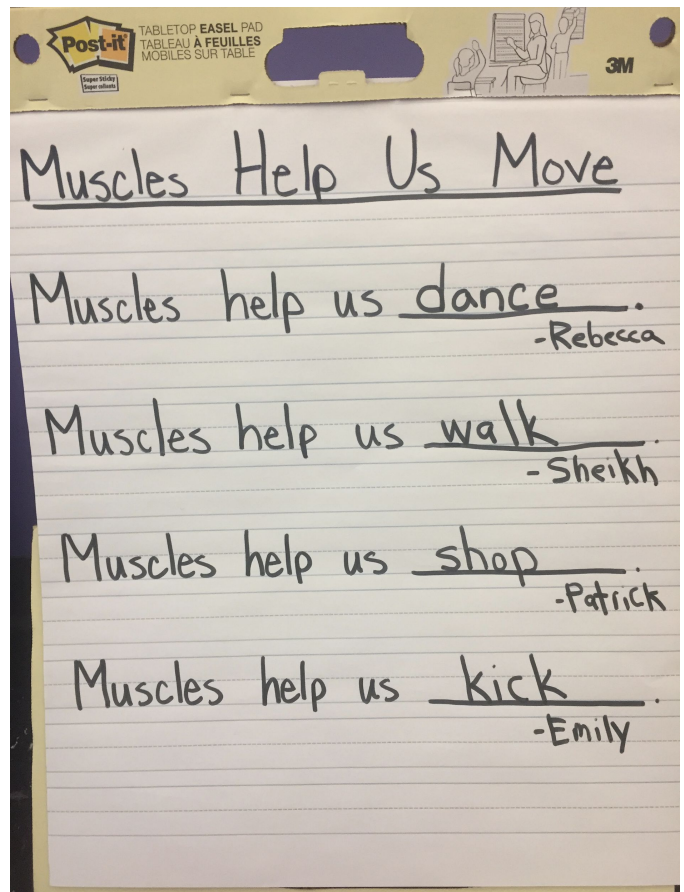
YOU WILL NEED:

- Several pieces of paper (Activities 1, 2, 3)
- Communication device, book, or board (All activities)
- Something to write with (Activities 1-2)
- Scissors (Activity 3)
- A way to make a book - either with paper or digitally (Activity 5 - see [part 5](#) for suggestions)

Literacy: Predictable Chart Writing

Activity 1: Write Sentences

1. Choose a topic that is interesting to your student. Write the topic on top of a piece of paper.
2. Write a sentence starter related to your topic. For example:
 - I eat _____.
 - Staying home is _____.
 - I like _____.
3. Take a turn selecting a word to complete the sentence. You can use your child's AAC system or use other pictures or objects. Read the sentence.
4. Ask your child to complete the sentence. Your child can use their AAC system or make a choice from other pictures or objects. Read the sentence.
 - Example: Child selects BOAT on AAC device (with help to navigate to "vehicles" page) to complete the sentence starter *We go in a _____*.
 - Example: Child points to TV to complete the sentence starter *At home, I like _____*.
5. Write more sentences, and/or have other family members contribute sentences. Read all your sentences out loud!



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Activity 1: Write Sentences

Video example from We Speak PODD



More resources:

[Predictable chart writing - Literacy Instruction for All](#)
[Predictable chart writing module from Project Core](#)

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Activity 2: Re-read Sentences

1. Re-read all your sentences out loud.
2. Re-read your own sentence again. Point to each word as you read it out loud.
3. Re-read your child's sentence again. Can they point to each word as you read it out loud?
 - Can they use a funny object to point?
4. Pick one or more of the following to do with your sentence:
 - Underline all the words
 - Clap/tap as you say each word
 - Count how many words in the sentence
 - Look for a specific letter (e.g. first letter of your child's name)
 - Circle a core vocabulary word in your sentence starter (e.g. "like" or "go")
5. Repeat step 4 for your child's sentence.
 - Can your child choose a color marker/crayon to use to underline or circle?
 - Can they use the alphabet page on their device to choose a letter to look for?

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Activity 2: Re-read Sentences

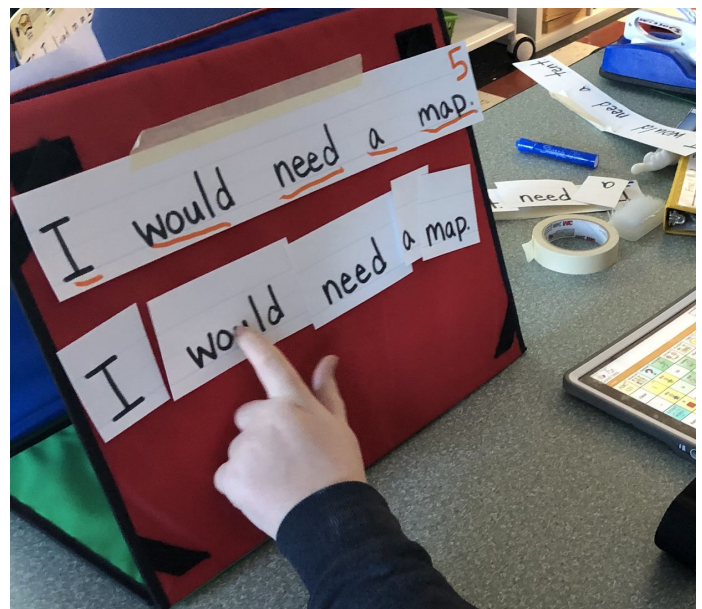
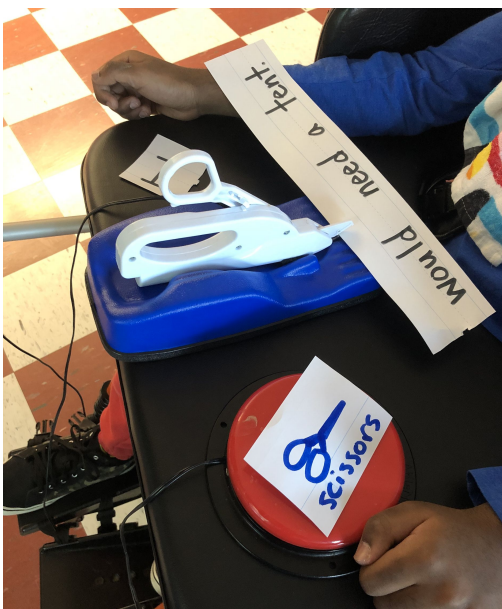
Video example from We Speak PODD



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Activity 3: Cut Up Sentences

1. Before beginning, write your sentence and your child's sentence on separate strips of paper.
2. Re-read all your sentences out loud.
3. Re-read your own sentence again. Use scissors to cut the words apart.
4. Re-read your child's sentence again. If they can use scissors safely, have them cut the words apart. If not, can they show you (by looking, pointing, or indicating "yes" when you point) where to cut?
5. Put your sentence back together in the correct order. Read it again.
6. Have your child put their sentence back together (or tell you by looking/pointing/indicating "yes") which words to put in order.
 - If their sentence is correct, give lots of praise! Comment that they made the sentence the same!
 - If not, read it as it is. Comment that this sentence is different. Then help them put the words in the correct order.



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Activity 3: Cut Up Sentences

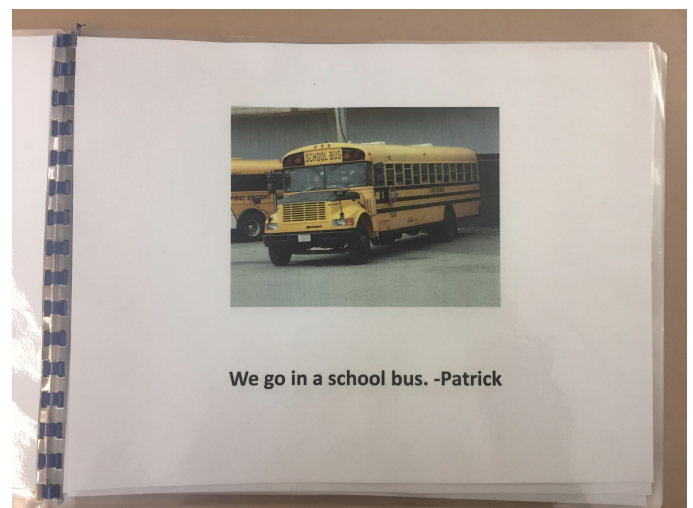
Video example from We Speak PODD



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Activity 4: Make a book

1. Before beginning, decide how you will make the book. Some ideas include:
 - Using Powerpoint or Google Slides
 - Using an iPad app like Book Creator, Pictello, or Story Creator
 - Using paper and drawing pictures, printing them, or cutting from a magazine
2. Re-read all your sentences out loud.
3. Create a title page for the book. Make sure to include your names as the authors!
4. Write each sentence on its own page.
5. Help your child choose pictures to illustrate each sentence. You can do this in a few ways:
 - Take a picture
 - Do a Google image search and choose a picture
 - Draw a picture
 - Cut out a picture from a magazine
6. Re-read the whole book as many times as you want!



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Activity 4: Make a Book

Video example from We Speak PODD



Info sheet created by Emily Hurd, March 2020

Strategies based on the work of Drs. Karen Erickson and David Koppenhaver at the [Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina](#)