

## WRITING SKILLS: DEVELOPING THE CHILD'S 4TH MACRO COMMUNICATION SKILL

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Communication is one of the basic skills that one should learn from early childhood, it helps people express emotions, needs, and desires. It is the process wherein people impart and exchange information from one another through language wherein it can be expressed in four ways-- speaking, listening, reading, and writing also known as the 4 Macro Communication Skills.

These skills can be taught by parents and developed in the classroom. Enhancing these skills at an early age can help children be more expressive. However, according to the studies conducted by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization together with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and with technical support from the Australian Council for Educational Research, Filipino students are falling behind in writing proficiency in the Southeast Asia.

To address this matter, the education sector should act proactively in order to fulfill its mandate in providing quality education for all. While this matter is serious and needs immediate action, here are some tips on how educators can help students improve their strong writing abilities:

1. Provide a reading time. As one of the macro skills that need to be developed, reading is always a stepping-stone of each learner towards a better writing ability. It will help enhance their critical thinking skills, creativity, and reasoning. This activity will help them improve their vocabulary.

2. Introduce a word bank. A word bank is a book or a notebook that contains each unfamiliar words with its meanings they encounter everytime they read. This will help them familiarize with different words in a language they are not comfortable yet.
3. Make it personal. During your writing session, allow them to write about something they like, for example, their pets, favorite food, favorite color, and favorite shows. This way, it will boost students' creativity and be more expressive through writing.
4. Introduce a journal. Journals nowadays are not much common due to the advancement of technology wherein they can posts their everyday lives on social media. However, introducing journals can help improve writing, reading, and creativity of each child while providing content in his/her journal. This is the only way they can share all their everyday experiences without being judged by hateful comments and reactions on social media.
5. Lastly, compliment their works. This will help them become more inspired and motivated to do better in writing. The kind words will instill in their minds as they progress in writing. As educators, we are shaping the minds of our young learners in order to be a competitive individual in the future in their desired fields.

Writing is an essential and practical life skill that is a foundation of an effective communicator. It will require a lot of patience and dedication to help young minds develop excellent writing skills, but, the tips given above can help children achieve their full potential.

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