

## CHAPTER 21 – Planning and managing literacy learning

### Classroom Activities: literacy learning centres

#### Writing centre

In the writing centre, children can make books using word-processing software, paper and pencils, crayons and markers. The books read aloud by the teacher, big books used in shared reading and books used in guided reading may be the stimulus for writing. Sometimes, the writing centre activities encourage creative responses. At other times, there are more structured activities where children innovate on a text.

The writing centre for emergent literacy can focus on innovating on text, pocket charts and book making. All the activities can integrate writing with information technology.

#### Innovating on a text

The sentence beginnings or stems from books read in guided reading sessions can be given for emergent readers to complete; for example:

I like ...  
I have ...  
This is a ...  
Can you see my ...?

#### Pocket charts

Pocket charts are strips of clear plastic in which children place cards with words written on them that have been introduced in books they have read. The children arrange the words in sentences to match an illustration. For example, the following words and punctuation marks were written on cards for the children to arrange in the plastic pocket chart. Children then wrote the sentences they created.



can you see my leg?

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## **Book making**

Children create their own books by drawing pictures and writing about the ideas. Books can be created individually, or by pairs or small groups.

### **Concertina books**

Concertina books are made by folding one piece of cardboard over and over until it opens like a concertina. These books are useful for drawing and writing about the main events in a book or for making drawings and writing the names of book characters.

### **Cumulative books**

Cumulative books start with a line of text contributed by one person. The next line of text is added by the next person and so on.

### **Photo stories**

Photo stories or language experience recounts can be made by small groups or the whole class about local community events, school events or imaginary stories with props such as dolls and toy soldiers in adventures. Digital cameras make it easy to produce these books on the computer.

### **Story maps**

Story maps are maps of what happens in a narrative. Children write and draw to retell the story.