

A Guide to Writing using VCOP (better Vocabulary, Connectives, sentence Openers & Punctuation)

Helping your child with V.C.O.P at home

Encourage your child to improve the sentences that they write, using VCOP. For example:-

The cat went along the wall.

We can improve this sentence using:-

Violet Vocabulary: The *fluffy ginger* cat *prowled* along the *red brick* wall.

Captain Connective: The fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall *because he was spying on a juicy bird.*

Incredible Opener: *Whilst licking his lips,* the fluffy ginger cat prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a juicy bird.

Dr Punctuation: Whilst licking his lips, the fluffy ginger cat (*who had sharp teeth*) prowled along the red brick wall because he was spying on a bird!

V-Valiant Vocabulary (Wow words!)

- Talk about and write down interesting (Wow) words in the stories you are reading at home.
- Try using the words you have found in a sentence.
- Have a mini-quiz: 'How many words can you think of instead of 'said' or 'went', 'nice', 'good'? Put each one in a sentence.
- Give your child a Wow word to put into a sentence. How many different sentences can they make?
- Give your child two different words and ask them to make different sentences from them e.g. 'magical' and 'boy'.
- Remind them that they should use the other VCOP's when writing these sentences!

C- Connective

Connectives are used to join sentences together. The simplest connective to use is 'and', as in: Bill went to the shops *and* he bought an ice-cream.

- Try to search for connectives in the stories you read at home. Use them in different sentences.
- Try rearranging sentences with the connectives at the start e.g. The little boy shivered despite it being warm in the cave. *Despite it being warm in the cave the little boy shivered.*
- Give your child a connective and ask them to use it in a sentence.

O- The Outstanding Opener

An opener is the first word used in a sentence. When children start on their writing journey most sentences initially begin with 'I'. To develop this try:-

- Searching for openers in the stories you read at home and use them to start your own sentences.
- Give your child an opener and ask them to complete the sentence.

P- Punctuation

- Look at different types of punctuation in your reading at home.
- Ask your child to give examples of when they would use a ? or ! or . or ,
- use the punctuation pyramid.
- Use different types of punctuation in different sentences.

Different ways to start a sentence: –

The Outstanding Opener! Ways to start examples:-

“When” starter; *Last night....*

“How” starter; *Carefully, he crept*

“Where” starter; *Across the road....*

Name starter; *Bill wandered*

Simile starter; *Like an eel*

Adjective starter; *Tall trees towered overhead*

“-ed” clause; *Excited, Joanna ran*

“-ing” clause; *Running quickly, Tim felt*

Time Connectives

Before, After, Later, After a while

Soon, Then, Afterwards, At dawn

Once, Suddenly, Eventually, Until

Before, Finally, Following, Firstly

When, Lastly, In the end, Soon

Later, After tea, Next, Now

Meanwhile, While, Tomorrow, One day

Previously, Since, At that moment

At the beginning

Alternatives to ‘went’:-

moving slowly:-

shuffled, toddled, crept

meandered, plodded, trudged, wandered

moving unsteadily:-

Lumbered, shuffled, toddled, doddered

Waddled, plodded, limped, wobbled,

lurched

moving loudly or quickly:-

stomped, marched, strolled, traipsed

strutted, hiked, roamed, paced

stepped, pounded

moving quietly:-

meandered, prowled, sneaked, tiptoed

crept, pattered

Thank you for helping us to support your child!