

Developing an Effective Writing Programme

Sheena Cameron

In this practical workshop, Sheena will review the components of a balanced and engaging writing programme at emergent, early and fluent levels. She will introduce a suggested lesson sequence, which aims to motivate and scaffold writers through the writing process allowing time for self and partner reflection.

Teachers will be introduced to a range of mini-lesson ideas and generic 'Quick Write' activities that can be used for different writing purposes across a range of levels.

Workshop outline

Session 1: Introduction

Guiding principles

- Gradual release of responsibility model
- Reading/writing links
- Overview of the Writing Toolkits

The writing classroom

- Physical and emotional environment
- Supports for writing
- 'Think pair share' to engage all students
- Grouping for writing

Planning for writing

- Authentic opportunities for writing
- Text types vs other writing forms

Session 2: The skills toolkit

- Generating ideas for writing
- Organising ideas for writing
- Mini-lessons to teach specific skills

Session 3: The writing lesson

- The writing lesson
- Quick-writes
- Publishing

Facilitator profile

Sheena Cameron is an experienced teacher who has taught in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. She has taught at primary, intermediate and tertiary levels. Sheena currently facilitates literacy workshops both in New Zealand and internationally and is the author of a number of books including *Teaching Reading Comprehension Strategies* (2009), *The Writing Book* (with Louise Dempsey), (2013) and *The Oral Language Book* (with Louise Dempsey), (2016).

